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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



A surplus of police gear?

Questions raised on law enforcement
acquisitions of military-type equipment

Page 8

In this image taken from video, officers fire blank rounds from a helicopter during a drill simulating a terrorist attack in downtown Los Angeles in 2013. After spending a decade sending military equipment to civilian police departments, Washington is reconsidering the idea in light of the events in Ferguson, Mo.

PROVIDED BY THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT/AP

US efforts against the Islamic State hampered by a lack of intelligence

By GREG MILLER
The Washington Post

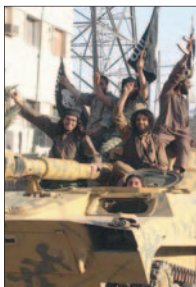
WASHINGTON — A U.S. offensive in Syria against the radical Islamist group that beheaded an American journalist would likely be constrained by persistent intelligence gaps and an inability to rely on fleets of armed drones that have served as the Obama administration's signature weapon against terrorist networks elsewhere, U.S. officials said.

The Pentagon has conducted daily surveillance flights along

Iraq's border with Syria in recent weeks as part of a push to bolster U.S. intelligence on the Islamic State without crossing into Syrian airspace and risking the loss of aircraft to that nation's air defenses, officials said.

The CIA has also expanded its network of informants inside Syria, largely by recruiting and vetting rebel fighters who have been trained and equipped at clandestine agency bases in Jordan during the past two years, U.S. officials said.

SEE EFFORTS ON PAGE 7



RAQQA MEDIA CENTER/AP

Members of a Syrian opposition group linked to the Islamic State participates in a parade in Raqqa, Syria, on Aug. 18.

USS Bonhomme Richard flight deck unfit for flight operations

By JAMES KIMBER
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Bonhomme Richard will likely miss its next deployment after a botched \$3 million resurfacing of the amphibious assault ship's flight deck.

The ship had undergone the resurfacing less than a month ago. "A recent application of non-skid coating on the flight deck of the USS Bonhomme Richard was not up to Navy safety standards and is being reapplied," Cmdr. William Marks, spokesman for 7th Fleet, said in an email to Stars and Stripes.

"This will cause an increase in port time and decrease in

underway days for Bonhomme Richard."

An "accidental gouging" of the flight deck on Aug. 8 led to a visual inspection, during which time officials from Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center Detachment Sasebo saw the non-skid surface was flaking.

Further testing confirmed the non-skid material had not set properly, making the surface unsafe for flight operations, something preliminary quality-assurance testing didn't indicate, Marks said.

The problem was immediately reported to Naval Surface Forces Pacific.

SEE DECK ON PAGE 6

QUOTE

OF THE DAY

"We shipped our vehicle on May from [Grafenwöhr] to Baltimore ... we have no idea where our car is and it has been 90 days since we sent it to sail on the boat to nowhere."

— Posting on Facebook page to collect reviews and complaints against Department of Defense vehicle shipping contractor International Auto Logistics

See story on Page 5

MILITARY

Coalition convoy hit by car bomb

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — An insurgent car bomb near a coalition military convoy in the eastern city of Jalalabad wounded six ISAF troops Sunday, according to a local official and a spokesman for the NATO-led coalition.

The bomb struck a convoy in the Behsud district of the city around

3 p.m., said the official, Abdul Zia Abdulzai, a spokesman for the provincial governor. He said no civilians were injured in the blast.

A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force confirmed an incident occurred in Jalalabad but said no coalition troops were killed. He declined to discuss servicemember injuries, citing ISAF policy.

Jalalabad is the capital of Nangarhar province, which borders Pakistan and has seen sporadic fighting between insurgents and Afghan security forces.

Although Afghan forces have assumed most of the fighting against insurgents in the country, ISAF troops remain targets while working alongside Afghans, patrolling their own bases and moving

ing in convoys.

Roughly 44,000 international troops remain in Afghanistan — nearly 30,000 of them Americans — as the coalition prepares to end its combat mission this year. NATO plans call for a residual training-and-advicing force to remain after 2014, pending agreements with the government.

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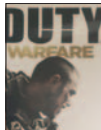
1. USS Dewey CMC relieved of duties
2. 60 years after first flight, C-130 has far outlasted expectations
3. Shuttle astronaut, ex-Air Force pilot Steven Nagel dies at 67
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COMING

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Exciting "Call of Duty" updates



TODAY

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RAHMAT GUL/AP

Taking the oath

The Afghan National Army's newly recruited female soldiers take an oath while placing their hands on copies of the Quran during their graduation ceremony at the Afghan Military Academy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. The academy welcomed 200 new recruits, including 30 women.

DECA joins peanut, almond butter recalls

Stars and Stripes

The Defense Commissary Agency is among those participating in a recall of peanut and almond butters.

NSpired Natural Foods Inc. issued the voluntary recall of specific lots of Arrowhead Mills peanut butters and MaraNatha almond butters and peanut butters because the products may be contaminated with salmonella.

Any affected products have been pulled from commissary shelves, DECA said in a news release.

Products being recalled are indicated by specific universal product code numbers and best-by-dates. For a complete list, visit www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm410533.htm.

Customers who purchased any of the items should return them to their local commissary for a refund. Questions can be directed

to nSpired at 1-800-937-7008.

Salmonella can be life-threatening, especially to infants, older people, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems. Its most common symptoms include diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever that develop between eight and 72 hours after consumption.

Four illnesses have been reported in conjunction with the recall.

Navy cuts education assistance

Stars and Stripes

Beginning Oct. 1, U.S. Navy tuition assistance will reimburse sailors only for the tuition cost of a course.

Tuition assistance funds will no longer pay for the following: additional fees for equipment, supplies, books/materials, exams, admissions, registration, fines and costs associated with distance learning. It is among several changes the Navy announced Thursday to its popular program.

The changes are meant to align the Navy's TA program with the Defense Department's policy on voluntary education programs that was released last month, the Navy said in a news release.

The new DOD policy the Navy is adopting changes the definition of a successfully completed course. Under the new policy, which goes into effect Oct. 1, sailors will have to reimburse the Navy if they fail to get a C grade or higher in an undergraduate course, a B grade or higher in a graduate-level course, or if they fail a pass/fail course.

About 89 percent of courses paid for by Navy TA were successfully passed in fiscal 2013, with 72 percent of those courses resulting in an A or B grade, the Navy says.

The Navy is also loosening the eligibility requirements for TA, effective immediately. Sailors with less than a year at their first duty station may get a waiver to the one-year requirement to become eligible for tuition assistance.

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MIDEAST

Vigil held for slain journalist

The Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.H. — James Foley, the U.S. journalist slain by Islamic State militants after being held in captivity for nearly two years, was to be remembered Sunday at a Mass of Remembrance in his hometown, a day after a vigil was held in his memory.

Foley was kidnapped on Thanksgiving Day 2012 while covering the Syrian uprising. The Islamic State posted a Web video Tuesday showing his murder and said it was in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes in northern Iraq.

President Barack Obama has called Foley a hero for telling the stories of oppressed people in war-torn regions like Syria and Libya. The U.S. launched a raid this summer to rescue Foley and other hostages, but special opera-

tions forces were unable to locate the captives.

At a vigil Saturday night in Rochester, about 200 people gathered to show support for the Foley family. Foley's parents, John and Diane Foley, attended. Foster's Daily Democrat reported.

"We are honored that you care and love Jim. We are honored that you recognized the sacrifices he made," John Foley said. "He loved the Syrian people. He was devoted to telling their story and doing whatever he could to help their fight."

Speakers praised Foley's determination to report on the Syrian people uprooted by conflict.

"Tonight we want to honor freedom and love: the freedom that James so vehemently believed that all people deserved," said



Jim Cole/AP

Candles are lit Saturday on the town common during a vigil for James Foley in his hometown of Rochester, N.H. Foley, a freelance journalist, was killed earlier in the week by Islamic State militants. He was abducted in November 2012 while covering fighting in Syria.

Nadia Alawa, founder of NuDay Syria, a Massachusetts-based organization working to ease the pain and loss in Syria. "To James Foley, denying others freedom and a basic voice of feelings and

free space was not OK."

She also condemned the campaign of terror and violence carried out by the Islamic State.

"[ISIS] thrives on using the name of Islam to justify their

vengeful acts that targets innocent non-Muslims as well as Muslims for no apparent, rational reasons," Alawa said. "As a Muslim, I refuse to let terrorists take my religion as hostage."

Hunt for Foley's killer to use police work, high-tech tools

By DAVID LERMAN, MICHAEL RILEY
AND ROBERT HUTTON

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — A combination of old-fashioned police work and new technology may unlock the Islamic extremist who beheaded American journalist James Foley.

The killer ensured that the task won't be easy by cloaking himself in loose, black clothing, leaving only his eyes and the bridge of his nose visible in the graphic video that sparked denunciations from world leaders and a reinvigorated battle against the group known as Islamic State. Without a fact to study, officials in the United States and Britain are analyzing the British-accused voice narrating the video, other videos, statements and social media postings for clues to the man's identity, said Todd Hinnen, a former national security official at the U.S. Justice Department.

"You can be absolutely certain that every single international, bilateral and multilateral linkage will be opened up now by the U.S. and A.C. authorities, agencies, and counterterrorism organizations," said David Livingstone, an associate fellow at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London and a specialist in counterterrorism and cyber-security. "There will be layer after layer of intelligence for finding data, which can start to narrow down the suspect."

Investigators may also be able to glean clues from emails sent to Foley's family by his captors. The Global Post, the online publication that Foley worked for, Friday released the final email the family received from his captors on Aug. 12, which says Foley would be executed "as a direct result of your transgressions towards us," a reference to U.S. air attacks on Islamic State militants in Iraq. The family also revealed that last year, the captors demanded a \$133 million ransom for Foley's release.

Britain is playing a leading role in the investigation because of the accent of the video's narrator, which has brought linguistics specialists into the probe. Prime Minister David Cameron has said "it looks increasingly likely it is a British citizen."

Britain is playing a leading role in the investigation because of the accent of the video's narrator, which has brought linguistics specialists into the probe.

That makes it "likely he is in the passport office database" of Britain, said Anil Jain, a professor at Michigan State University in East Lansing who studies biometric recognition techniques.

Investigators will begin the hunt by trying to determine where and when the beheading video was shot, according to a former official with the National Security Agency who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters.

With an approximate time and location of the video, analysts can go back in digital time and determine what devices were active at that spot.

Britain's Government Communications Headquarters, or GCHQ, maintains a large listening post in Cyprus that monitors phone, Internet and other electronic communications in the eastern Mediterranean. The NSA collects similar data in partnership with GCHQ and other intelligence agencies and on its own.

The NSA and GCHQ also have a vast pool of data from Iraq and Syria, much of it metadata from devices such as mobile phones that constantly ping nearby towers, the former official said.

The time the video was uploaded will help provide a range, and the investigators are lucky the metadata associated with the file will contain a time stamp. Investigators can match that data with chatter among extremists as they prepared the operation or discussed moving Foley.

The time of the recording can then be paired with details about weather conditions in the region and the geography in the video to help determine the precise location. Even the angle of the shadows may help.

The fact that the video appears to have been shot in a remote location will work to investigators' advantage, the official said. The number of devices in sparsely populated areas of northern Iraq or eastern Syria will be dramatically smaller than in the region's major cities.

Given the nondescript desert backdrop, though, determining when the video was shot will be easier than pinning down its location, the former official said.

The desolate scene suggests to Patrick Skinner, director of special projects at the Soufan Group, a New York-based security consulting firm, that the video was shot in Syria, far from the Iraq border, so that the militants wouldn't have to worry about U.S. airstrikes. Skinner, a former CIA case officer experienced in counterterrorism, said intelligence and law enforcement officials will look for distinctive landmarks in the video in addition to focusing on Foley's murderer.

The questions the British intelligence services are asking include who was involved in preparing and uploading the video, according to a British government official, who asked not to be named discussing security matters.

Facial recognition will be difficult because the killer covered his face with a mask.

"That poses a challenge," said Jain, the biometrics analyst in Michigan.

"Research has shown that the eye component of the face can give you close to 70 percent of the components found on the whole face," he said. "The problem with this particular video frame is that the eyebrows aren't visible."

While it will be helpful to study the eyes, "you are probably not going to get the retina because of the distance," said James Jasinski, senior vice president at Digital Signal Corp. in Chantilly, Va., who had worked for the FBI.

"My impression from looking at the film is there isn't a lot of information that you can get because of the distance," Jasinski said.

Other information to be sifted include details used to identify individuals who

have been overseas for some time, such as passport databases, information on cars, unpaid tax bills or the use of credit cards overseas, said Livingstone, a former director of information technology for Britain's Naval Air Command.

Intelligence and law enforcement officials in Britain are examining the possibility that the video's narrator, who speaks with an East London accent, isn't the person seen beheading Foley. It's possible that the killer and the narrator are different people because the sound in the video is out of sync with the picture, the British official said.

Techniques such as voice-pattern analysis can pin down the narrator's accent to a particular borough of London and determine whether the person has been the subject of previous intelligence collection. They also can check for any prior data that was intercepted, said Livingstone.

Investigators will try to match the voice on the video to existing telephone surveillance intercepts of a number of British jihadists who have traveled to Syria or Iraq.

They will do the same with intercepts from the combat zone, but those are likely to be limited to Islamic State's leadership, and the executioner may not be one of them, according to the former NSA official.

Although voiceprint software can help find a match, the technology has proved unreliable in the hunt for insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

Voice-recognition software such as that used by Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple Inc.'s Siri can digitize human speech, but such software is less adept at distinguishing one human voice from another or matching two recordings to the same person.

In Iraq, NSA translators who listened to hours of insurgent phone conversations each day proved better than software at making such matches. The human ear still beats computers in picking up nuances unique to a human voice.

Despite all the difficulties, NSA tracking units successfully accomplished similar missions time and time again in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the former agency official.

PACIFIC

US eyes fewer subs, continued Asia presence

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. Navy bills its submarine fleet as the world's most advanced, a boast that few in the Asia-Pacific region would dispute.

Submariners can collect intelligence, protect surface ships and launch Navy SEAL teams in a region brimming with international tensions — all with minimal chance of detection.

However, the one thing that the U.S. fleet hasn't been able to do is escape the realities of both age and cost.

The U.S. Navy's attack submarine fleet is slated to drop steadily from 55 currently active to 41 by 2028, according to the service's most recent shipbuilding plan.

Even at a projected rate at which the Navy acquires 22 of its \$2 billion Virginia-class subs by 2028, the numerous Los Angeles-class submarines built starting in the 1970s are running out of time too quickly to keep pace.

In the 2020s, the fleet's 14 nuclear ballistic missile submarines will also need replacement. At this point, no one in Congress or the Pentagon is sure where the estimated \$95 billion to build 12 new ships will come from.

It's difficult to quantify the effect of an attack submarine deficit on the Navy's daily mission because the "silent service" doesn't talk about its operations. However, the Navy's deployments in recent years included regular visits to the South China Sea, where \$1.2 trillion in annual U.S. trade transits. The sea is also the center of tensions and repeated low-level skirmishes over territory between the United States and multiple U.S. allies.

The looming reality of fewer submarines could fuel skepticism over whether the United States can afford to make the Asia-Pacific region its top long-term priority, as Pentagon leaders have said they would.

"The U.S. is already doing so much in the region, but no matter how many times the U.S. says it's committed to the region, still there are doubts," said Ian Storey, senior fellow at the Institute



PHOTOS BY ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

The fast-attack sub USS Hawaii floats in port at Yokosuka Naval Base on Friday after arriving from Hawaii two days earlier.

of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore.

Those doubts arise largely from the country's budget woes — Congress still hasn't found a solution to sequestration, a set of automatic budget cuts that has resulted in Defense Department civilian furloughs and reduced operations. Even without sequestration, there are no plans for big defense spending increases.

That bodes poorly for the Navy's 30-year shipbuilding plan. The plan that allows for up to two new Virginia-class subs per year and Ohio-class replacement assumes about \$19 billion in annual shipbuilding funds during several of those years — \$6 billion more per year than the Navy's historical adjusted average.

"The new shipbuilding plan lacks the resources to be anything more than a piece of paper," Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., chairman of the House Armed Services seapower subcommittee, said after the plan's release in July.

Submarine officials say they



USS Hawaii commanding officer Cmdr. William Patterson explains the submarine's controls.

are already planning for reduced numbers in the coming years.

"There are measures that we can take to get even more out of the submarines than we do," said Rear Adm. Stuart Munsch, commander of Submarine Group 7,

while aboard the fast-attack submarine USS Hawaii on Friday. There are uncertainties as to the threat in the future, and so we're working to match up those two."

One possibility is that submarine patrols will get longer,

said Cmdr. William Patterson, USS Hawaii's commanding officer. Many surface ships now regularly head to sea for seven or eight months, while attack submarines still generally stick to a six-month deployment, barring an emergency.

It's also likely that if forced to choose, the Navy will sacrifice submarine missions in other regions to support the Pacific. The submarine fleet already has based 60 percent of its fleet in the Pacific, a move the surface fleet won't make until 2020.

Another strategy may involve relying more on U.S. allies, Munsch said.

South Korea and Japan both plan significant increases to their submarine numbers. The U.S. also works with submariners from Australia and Malaysia, and has had discussions with Thailand as they consider building a submarine program. Military relations have also warmed with Vietnam, which is acquiring six Russian Kilo-class submarines.

"It's a combined effort among like-minded countries," Munsch said. "We're concerned about maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight ... the global economy is very dependent on that."

Most countries in the region share that philosophy, but China does not. It maintains ambiguous claims to 90 percent of the South China Sea, and its ships rammed several Vietnamese ships positioned near the disputed Parcel Islands this summer. Meanwhile, China declared an air defense identification zone over the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands, which China claims as the Diaoyu.

The U.S. tries to place enough of its advanced military assets in the region — subs included — to show allies that it's committed to the regional security structure it has dominated since WWII. At the same time, they don't want to overdo it, Storey said. "How do you reassure friends and partners in the region without increasing tension with China and having a counterproductive response? There's no easy answer," he said.

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Elevated lead levels found in water at Navy bases in Japan

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — With the beginning of school right around the corner, the Navy was forced to shut off several water fountains and faucets at base schools and day care centers in Japan after finding elevated lead levels, officials said Friday.

A preliminary test of nearly 4,000 water sources found that about 5 percent tested above the base standard of 20 parts per

million, but lead levels are still relatively low, said Lt. Cmdr. Ron Flanders, Commander Naval Forces Japan spokesman.

Exact lead levels at the affected locations were unavailable Friday afternoon.

"We are very confident that nobody was placed at risk," Flanders said. "We are being very cautious to ensure that the water in the schools and in the child development centers continues to be safe."

The elevated levels were likely due to a buildup in lead from pipes that weren't being used during

summer, Flanders said.

Each of the affected water sources will be shut off when the school year begins Monday.

Water samples were taken at Yokosuka Naval Base, the Ikego and Negishi housing areas, Sasebo Naval Base, Naval Air Facility Atsugi and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Base facilities workers found 95 faucets, 29 water fountains and two water coolers that exceeded standards.

At Ikego Elementary School, workers found 22 faucets, six water fountains and one water cooler exceeding standards.

Facilities workers will re-test each of the affected sources for lead and attempt to isolate corroding pipes that may be responsible for the contamination.

Japanese standards call for mitigation efforts at a lead level of 10 parts per billion, according to a 2012 report from Japan's environmental ministry.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines are less clear. Parts of its website list the standard for action to be taken at 15 parts per billion, while others list 20 parts per billion as the recom-

mended action level.

The EPA says that 15 parts per billion "is the lowest level to which water systems can reasonably be required to control this contaminant should it occur in drinking water at their customers' home taps."

More information on lead in drinking water is also available at the World Health Organization website, http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/lead/en/.

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MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

The YC-130 Hercules undergoes its ferry flight from Burbank, Calif., to Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on Aug. 23, 1954. The C-130 is still in production today, making it the longest-running military aircraft production line in history.

60 years after first flight, C-130 has far outlasted expectations

By WAYNE CRENSHAW
The Macon (Ga.) Telegraph

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. — On Aug. 23, 1954, a plane took off from the Lockheed plant in Burbank, Calif., for a flight that would have great impact on the military and Middle Georgia.

It was the first flight of the C-130 Hercules prototype. The bulky, propeller-driven aircraft looked behind its time in an era when sleek jet planes were the new thing in aviation. No one imagined the many uses and longevity the plane would have.

Famed Lockheed designer Kelly Johnson was one skeptic. He predicted that only 100 C-130s would be built. As of this year, the total production number is about 2,500, according to Lockheed Martin. The company was Lockheed when the C-130 first flew and later merged with Martin.

The C-130 is still being produced today, as it has been from the start, at the company's plant in Marietta. The company says it has been continuously produced longer than any aircraft in military history. It is commonly referred to as the "workhorse" of the Air Force.

Robins Air Force Base has been the caretaker of the Air Force's C-130s since the first production plane was delivered in 1956. The base does modifications, overhaul maintenance and worldwide management on the many variations of the C-130.

The 560th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, which does the C-130 work, is the largest squadron at the base with 791 employees. Hundreds of other jobs, at least, can be attributed to the C-130 when counting various support personnel ranging from avionics technicians to security forces.

"This workload is extremely important to Robins Air Force Base," said Jim Russell, director of the 560th. "We take our work very seriously. Our folks understand the importance of this aircraft."

Although some older C-130s are being retired, for the foreseeable future, the workload at Robins is expected either to stay the same or to grow, Russell said. Part of that is because it is the only plane



JOHN R. NIMMO Sr./Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules with the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Station, Ga., maneuvers to avoid simulated ground-to-air threats during Maple Flag in Edmonton/Cold Lake, Alberta, Canada, in June.

maintained at Robins that is still in production, so as older planes are retired, there are new planes entering the inventory.

In the world of distributing military supplies and troops, the C-5 and the C-17 are the big rigs that haul cargo from the U.S. to combat theaters. The C-130s are more like the UPS trucks, getting goods from the large bases to the troops in the field, as well as dropping troops close to the enemy.

Its specialty, and one of the biggest reasons it has stuck around for so long, is its ability to land on remote, dirt airstrips with short landing and takeoff distances required.

That remains a common occurrence, Russell said, and because of that, the planes come in a good bit more rugged than the other planes maintained at Robins.

While hauling cargo and troops within the theater of operations is the primary purpose of the C-130, it has many more uses. One of the most notable is its role as a gunship.

Designated the AC-130, those planes will circle over an enemy area and rain down fire from guns protruding out of the sides of the aircraft. The effectiveness of that capability was well demonstrated in Vietnam, said William Head, the historian at Robins.

He has written a book about the AC-130, called "Night Hunters." The planes, he said, demonstrated that in the jet aircraft era, sometimes slower is better. That especially applies to the low-tech insurgency forces the U.S. has fought from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Air power tends to be focused on faster airplanes and more sophisticated airplanes, but a gunship is low and slow," Head said. "When we got to Vietnam, it turned out to be perfect."

The plane has far more distinctly different uses than that. A specialized firefighting system can be put on any C-130 to fight forest fires. Other variations can do aerial refueling, weather reconnaissance, search and rescue, and special operations. Another version has skis so it can land on ice.

Most recently, C-130s dropped supplies to Iraqis trapped on a mountain by Islamic State militants.

Lockheed Martin's fact sheet on the plane states, "There is no aircraft in aviation history — either developed or under development — that can match the flexibility, versatility and relevance of the C-130 Hercules."

Head said he didn't know if he could say it is the greatest military aircraft ever built.

"I would put it in the top five," he said. "Maybe the top three."

Servicemembers file suit against vehicle shipper

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Former and current Defense Department employees who have not seen their personal vehicles in more than two months have filed a class-action lawsuit against the government's vehicle shipping contractor.

Williams Litigation Group and Tate Law Group filed the suit against International Auto Logistics on Thursday in Georgia on behalf of Air Force Capt. Jason Smith, at Joint Base San Antonio; Air Force Master Sgt. Patrick McKimble, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Nancy Swenson, recently retired from the Defense Department; Army Capt. Michael Cleveland; and Debra Gilbertson.

The six claim that International Auto Logistics lost possession of their vehicles between June 1 and June 12 for shipping, but has failed to deliver them and has not provided accurate information about the vehicles' whereabouts, according to the complaint filed with the court and given to Stars and Stripes by one of their attorneys, Nathan T. Williams.

If the court certifies that those six represent a group and they win their case, the award would go to anyone who fit the criteria for remuneration, Williams said. The damages are estimated at more than \$5 million.

Smith, one of the litigants, declined to be interviewed pending approval from his superior, but he posted on Facebook that he was participating in the lawsuit because International did not respond to his reimbursement claim and because he wants to hold the company accountable.

The lawsuit was filed on the same day information was posted online indicating International was not meeting the 98 percent on-time delivery rate required in the government contract. A Facebook user posted an email from U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. James K. Sims, with U.S. Army

Material Command, which said that International, as of Aug. 19, had processed "27,358 vehicles; 14,154 vehicles are currently in transit with approximately 70 percent late in meeting the required delivery date."

A spokesman for Sims confirmed the email was authentic.

International assumed responsibility in May for the more than \$957.5 million contract to ship Defense Department employees' personally owned vehicles when they change duty stations. U.S. Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, which oversees vehicle shipping, estimates that 68,000 vehicles are shipped each year.

The Defense Department has received hundreds of complaints about International, and more than 3,000 people have joined "International Auto Logistics: Reviews, Complaints, and Inconveniences," a Facebook group. Many of the stories posted to the group's page complain of vehicles delivered late and inaccurate location information.

"We shipped our vehicle on May 15 from Graf to Baltimore," a spokesman posted on Aug. 15, referring to Grafenwahr, Germany. She was told her vehicle "was in Norfolk, then Savannah. But the truth is, we have no idea where our car is and it has been 90 days since we sent it to sail on the boat to nowhere."

Earlier this month, DOD officials investigated the situation and found that International was not properly documenting the transfer of vehicles from trucks to container ships.

A spokesman for U.S. Transportation Command said he had not seen the lawsuit and did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Amanda Nunez, a spokeswoman for International, and a spokesman for U.S. Transportation Command did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit.

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PACIFIC

Deck: Ship's deployment likely delayed

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We are now researching the root cause of the failure," Marks said. "There could be a number of reasons it didn't set properly, and we won't know the final details until additional testing takes place."

As a result, the ship will likely have to delay its next deployment, which was set for late September or early October. The ship is currently conducting sea trials, and the repairs will take place afterward.

Personnel from SRF-JRMC Detachment Sasebo are working with technical experts from Naval Sea Systems Command and Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock on a rework plan, the Navy said.

'We are now researching the root cause of the failure.'

Cmdr. William Marks
7th Fleet
spokesman

industries, is expected to reapply the nonskid with increased oversight. "At this time, the contract for this rework is not yet complete," said Marks. "SRF is still reviewing what it can do to hold the original contractor accountable for paying for the rework."

The Bonhomme Richard — which can carry a crew of 100 officers, 1,000 sailors and 1,900 Marines, along with 4 CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters — is often called into duty when disaster strikes. Most recently, the ship spent more than a week in the Yellow Sea, assisting South Korean officials after the April 16 sinking of a South Korean ferry.

While the ship is out of commission, Navy officials say they will lean on the USS Peleliu — which arrived Friday in Sasebo for a port visit — and the USS Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group to pick up the slack.

"Peleliu can be configured to conduct the same operations and



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard steams through the East China Sea in March.

take the same types of aircraft and landing and attack craft as USS Bonhomme Richard in different numbers," said Marks. "Her characteristics are different, but she can support the same mission as USS Bonhomme Richard and this will not affect our participation in planned exercises throughout the deployment."

The Bonhomme Richard arrived in Japan in April 2012 to replace the USS Essex, which had its share of problems during its final days in Sasebo.

In the months before the hull swap, mechanical and maintenance issues made the Essex unfit

to fulfill its mission. In July 2011, the ship was unable to take part in the Talisman Sabre exercise in Australia, and it never left port in February of 2012 when it was to participate in Cobra Gold training in Thailand.

The Bonhomme Richard broke down while en route to Sasebo to replace the Essex. Problems with its boiler forced the ship to stop in Okinawa for repairs before making it to Sasebo.

For years, Navy officials have said that the high operations tempo placed on ships has led to advanced wear and tear.

Testifying before Congress in

2012, then-Vice Adm. William Burke, who was serving as deputy chief of naval operations for fleet readiness and logistics, said the Navy has "a limited supply of forces."

"When you have these additional deployments, you sometimes impact the maintenance, or you impact the training, which will impact the maintenance," Burke said. "So what we have is one event cascading into another, so we don't get either of them quite right."

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China defends US plane intercept

By JACK CHANG
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China's Defense Ministry rejected U.S. accusations that a Chinese fighter jet's intercept of a U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft off the southern Chinese coast was dangerous, and blamed Washington for mounting large-scale and frequent close-in reconnaissance operations.

Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun said the Chinese pilot conducted operations that were "professional and the Chinese jet kept a safe distance from the U.S. planes."

He called the U.S. accusations "groundless" in a statement issued Saturday night, and said China was conducting "routine identification and verification" flights.

Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby gave a different account Friday of the Tuesday encounter about 135 miles east of China's Hainan Island. He said the Chinese jet made several close passes by the Navy P-8 Poseidon plane, coming within 30 feet of it at one point.

Kirby said that included the Chinese jet doing a "barrel roll" maneuver over the top of the Poseidon — a modified Boeing 737 — and passing across the nose of the Navy plane apparently to show that it was armed. Kirby said the Chinese jet's maneuvering posed a risk to the safety of the U.S. air crew and was "inconsistent with customary international law."

He said it was the fourth such incident since March of "close intercepts" involving Chinese jets.

The Chinese statement also said a Navy P-3 Orion, an anti-submarine and surveillance aircraft, flew alongside the Poseidon. The Pentagon did not mention the second aircraft.

Tensions between the two countries have risen in the South China Sea, as China disputes territorial claims with U.S. ally the Philippines, Vietnam and other neighbors.

In 2001, a Chinese jet collided with a U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft off Hainan Island, killing the Chinese pilot and forcing the Navy plane to make an emergency landing on the island. Washington severed military relations with China after that episode.

In the latest encounter, Yang blamed "the large-scale and highly frequent close-in reconnaissance by the U.S. against China" as "the root cause of accidents endangering the sea and air military security between China and the United States."



Above: The USS Bonhomme Richard sits moored at Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan.

Right: Air department sailors strike down the jack staff during sea trials on Thursday.



MIDEAST

Islam authority: Extremists no 'Islamic State'

BY SARAH EL DEEB

The Associated Press

CAIRO — The top Islamic authority in Egypt, revered by many Muslims worldwide, launched an Internet-based campaign Sunday challenging an extremist group in Syria and Iraq by saying it should not be called an "Islamic State."

The campaign by the Dar el-Ifta, the top authority that advises Muslims on spiritual and life issues, adds to the war of words by Muslim leaders across the world targeting the Islamic State group, which controls wide swaths of Iraq and Syria. Its violent attacks, including mass shootings, destroying Shiite shrines, targeting minorities and beheadings including American journalist James Foley, have shocked Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Shawki Allam, previously said the extremists violate all Islamic principles and laws and de-

scribed the group as a danger to Islam as a whole. Now, the Dar el-Ifta authority he oversees will suggest foreign media drop using "Islamic State" in favor of the "al-Qaida Separatists in Iraq and Syria," or the acronym "QISIS," said Ibrahim Negrn, an adviser to the mufti.

This is part of a campaign that "primarily aims to correct the image of Islam that has been tarnished in the West because of these criminal acts, and to exonerate humanity from such crimes that defy natural instincts and spreads hate between people," Negrn was quoted as saying by Egypt's state news agency MENA. "We also want to reaffirm that all Muslims are against these practices which violate the tolerate principles of Islam."

Negrn said the Internet and social media campaign will include opinions by Islamic scholars from around the world about the group and its claims to represent Islam.



KHALIL HAMRA/AP

Muslims arrive to attend the Friday prayer at Al-Azhar mosque in Cairo in December 2012. The Grand Mufti of Egypt, Shawki Allam, and clerics from the oldest Islamic learning institute, Al-Azhar, have condemned the Islamic State.

It also will include a hashtag campaign on Twitter and videos from Muslims denouncing the group

and its methods.

The campaign comes as the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia,

Sheik Abdul-Aziz Al-Sheik, also has called the group Islam's No. 1 enemy.

Muslims around the world have battled against the backlash that followed the rise of al-Qaida and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the U.S. Scholars and activists groups have sought for years to disassociate themselves from militants touting their own extremist versions of Islam.

They say the Islamic State group is another, one that appears more ambitious and aggressive than al-Qaida. The Islamic State group renamed itself on June 29 when it unilaterally declared the territory it held in Iraq and Syria a caliphate, effectively erasing the two countries' borders and setting up a proto-state governed by its own strict interpretation of Shariah law. It previously referred to itself as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant while fighting in Syria against the rule of President Bashar Assad.

Efforts: Lawmaker says intelligence provides 'only modest visibility' in Syria

FROM PAGE 1

Still, senior U.S. intelligence and military officials — speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive operations — said American spy agencies have not yet assembled the capabilities that would be needed to target Islamic State leaders and to provide intelligence with enough reliability to sustain a campaign of strikes.

"Our intelligence is improving since we began devoting the resources to doing that, but we still have only modest visibility into what is going on in Syria," said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

A senior U.S. intelligence official said that "it would probably take some number of months to really build up the necessary intelligence architecture" to expand the U.S. air campaign underway in Iraq against Islamic State positions in Syria. "This is not going to end anytime soon."

The Obama administration has counted on Predator and Reaper aircraft to carry out hundreds of strikes against al-Qaida targets in Pakistan and Yemen, countries where it has at least tacit permission to fly armed drones. The planes conduct nearly constant surveillance over extensive territory in both countries and often spend days tracking a target be-

fore a missile launch.

The use of drones is far riskier in Syria, where the forces of President Bashar Assad guard the country's airspace with missile batteries and fighter aircraft. The Islamic State seeks to overthrow Assad, and strikes against the group would be in his interest. But allowing American drones to reach cities such as Raqqa — an Islamic State stronghold — would also probably be seen by Assad as a threat, in part because such aircraft could gather valuable intelligence on his forces.

U.S. officials stressed that President Barack Obama has not made a decision to launch strikes in Syria — an action the administration has avoided since the start of that country's civil war. But the video-recorded execution of American journalist James Foley last week has prompted a re-evaluation of the threat posed by the Islamic State, which holds other American hostages and controls territory across northern Iraq and Syria.

After gruesome footage of Foley's killing appeared on the Internet, Obama warned that the United States would be "relentless" in its response. Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described the Islamic State as "an apocalyptic, end-of-days" organization that cannot be defeated unless

it is "addressed on both sides of what is essentially at this point a nonexistent border."

But while the border has been exploited by the Islamic State, it has been an impediment to U.S. spy agencies.

U.S. officials cited a failed attempt to rescue Foley and other U.S. hostages in July as indicative of the limits of U.S. intelligence. With information from sources including other hostages who had been released by the group, U.S. spy agencies believed they had identified with high confidence where Foley was being held. By the time Army commandos arrived at the site, the hostages and their captors were gone.

U.S. officials said spy agencies have similarly singled out compounds where senior Islamic State operatives are believed to have been based. But it has been difficult to sustain surveillance of such targets long enough to be certain that those figures would still be in place if a strike were launched.

Experts said the Pentagon could employ high-flying, unmanned aircraft — such as the RQ-4 Global Hawk or stealth drones developed by the CIA — that soar at altitudes beyond the reach of Syrian antiaircraft batteries. But the Global Hawk does not carry missiles nor provide the close-in surveillance required to

monitor terrorist leaders who move frequently.

At a recent briefing for reporters, U.S. intelligence officials acknowledged that they had scant information even on the whereabouts of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. "We've seen him in Mosul," a U.S. intel-

ligence official quipped, referring to widely circulated Internet footage of Baghdadi's appearance at a mosque in that Iraqi city to declare himself the leader of a new caliphate. Beyond that, officials said, he is believed to cross frequently between Iraq and Syria.

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NATION

Program giving DOD gear to police draws scrutiny

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — After seeing TV footage of the police in Ferguson, Mo., deploying Humvees and brandishing assault rifles in the face of protesters, some Americans are questioning whether local law enforcement agencies should be allowed to acquire military equipment from the Pentagon. A congressional review has been scheduled, with the president's backing.

But few understand how the Defense Department's 1033 Program actually works. Even Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel had to ask his staffers last week to explain it to him.

The ongoing controversy raises important questions: Why does the program exist? Why do many police officers believe they need military-grade equipment? And what safeguards are in place to ensure that weapons and vehicles designed for combat zones are used responsibly in towns like Ferguson?

How it came to be

The 1033 Program was an invention of Congress, not the Pentagon. It came into being through the 1990-91 National Defense Authorization Act, and the program's original scope was much narrower than it is today. As the federal government's "war on drugs" escalated, the 1990-91 NDA authorized the transfer of excess DOD property to federal and state agencies for use in counterdrug activities. A few years later, the program was broadened considerably to include material that could be used for the execution of law enforcement activities, "to include counterdrug and counterterrorism missions, according to the DOD.

The theory behind the initiative was that the military's unneeded equipment might as well be put to good use rather than be destroyed or warehoused.

Pentagon officials chafing at recent criticism of the program are quick to point out that DOD is simply following orders from lawmakers.

"Congress is telling us to do this ... Congress has to be the one to change it," a defense official told Stars and Stripes on condition of anonymity to more freely discuss the transfer program.

"We do not legislate," Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John

Kirby said Tuesday at a news conference in response to a reporter's question. "We don't push equipment on anybody ..."

In addition, Kirby said Friday that very little of the equipment used by police in Ferguson came from the DOD.

"Most of the stuff you are seeing in video coming out of Ferguson is not military," he said, adding, "The military is not the only source of tactical gear in this country."

Following the uproar over events in Ferguson, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the outgoing chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he would launch a review of 1033. President Barack Obama has suggested that would be wise.

"I think it's probably useful for us to review," Obama said at a White House news conference on Aug. 18. "I think that there will be some bipartisan interest in re-examining some of those programs."

On Thursday, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., announced that she would lead a Senate hearing next month to examine the program.

On Saturday, the Associated Press reported that the White House is conducting a review of programs that have equipped local police departments with military gear from the Pentagon.

Two senior administration officials said the White House review will examine whether the programs are appropriate; the amount of training provided for using military equipment; and how well the government audits the use of the money and equipment by local police departments.

According to the AP report, the review will be led by White House staff including the Domestic Policy Council, the National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget, and agencies such as the departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice and Treasury.

In the meantime, the program continues.

Humvees and TVs

More than 8,000 law enforcement agencies around the country participate in 1033. Since the program's inception, the Pentagon has transferred property worth \$5.1 billion. Last year, half a billion dollars' worth of gear was transferred, according to the

Defense Logistics Agency, which manages the transfers.

Equipment is free, but law enforcement agencies must pay maintenance and transportation costs.

Some of the items — Humvees, mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, aircraft (rotary and fixed wing), boats, sniper scopes and M-16s — raise eyebrows.

But only about 5 percent of the equipment is weaponry, and less than 1 percent is tactical vehicles, according to the defense official.

Much of the gear is nonmilitary items, such as office equipment, blankets and sleeping bags, computers, digital cameras and video recorders, binoculars, flashlights, extreme weather clothing, repair tools, first-aid supplies and TVs.

The official said all tactical vehicles are "stripped down" before they are given to law enforcement and are without weapons.

Transferred aircraft are also unarmed and are intended to give police greater observation capabilities, according to the official.

Just because the Pentagon doesn't need a particular item doesn't mean law enforcement agencies can use it. The logistics agency has to approve every type of item that can be transferred.

"No, you can't have a damn tank," the official said.

What is it good for?

Some wonder why a police force would need weapons and vehicles designed for war zones.

Bill Johnson, the executive director of the National Association of Police Organizations, an advocacy group in Alexandria, Va., suggested that the level of violence on American streets sometimes justifies law enforcement's use of military-grade gear.

Johnson cited the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombing as an example.

"You have armed and dangerous suspects who have already detonated two bombs and killed people and maimed people, and now you've got police tracking them down and chasing them and they're actually getting bombs thrown at them and being shot at and so forth," he said. "Unfortunately in America today ... it's so violent against the police that they really, do need that level of protection."

It also about image in how the gear is presented and used, he



JASON WACHTER, THE ST. CLOUD (MINN.) TIMES/AP

Police use a military-grade vehicle during a standoff in April in St. Cloud, Minn. A debate about the militarization of police forces has been renewed in the wake of demonstrations following the shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo.

said. "An MRAP, I think, obviously by its very form and appearance, is something that could be intimidating to people who aren't used to being around it."

Johnson said what came to be known as the North Hollywood shootout in 1997 — in which heavily armed and armored bank robbers slugged it out with the LAPD for hours — is one example of law enforcement officials needing powerful rifles to subdue criminals.

"The bad guys had military-grade body armor ... They were able to keep going and shoot and do damage" and the police officers' regular duty weapons "weren't doing anything," he said.

The need for police in large cities to have heavy-duty weapons and equipment that could be used in a major crisis seems more reasonable to some than the acquisition of MRAPs and assault rifles by a number of small-town law enforcement agencies.

Johnson said the size of the town being policed isn't necessarily the right metric.

"It's more a function of the level of criminal activity and the potential violence associated with it than the population of the city," he said.

For example, he said, a very rural area could have a severe methamphetamine problem, which often is accompanied by violence.

"You can have booby traps, you can have explosives, you can have people who are willing to very violently defend their [meth] lab or their [marijuana] growing area and so forth ... It doesn't mean you have to deploy it all the time. But I think it's a good tool to have in the toolbox."

Military vehicles can also be useful for search-and-rescue missions.

"When there's a natural disaster ... you [may] need vehicles like a Humvee to go through high water to get to areas that they normally you wouldn't get to," Johnson said.

Still, he acknowledged that some police forces get military surplus they don't need or won't use responsibly.

"Admittedly, there's going to be agencies out there where people are taking gear, agencies are obtaining equipment because it's

free and ... it'd be neat to have," he said.

Although NAPO supports 1033, "we recognize that there's particular instances where there may be legitimate concerns about the use of a particular item by a particular department," he said.

Who's responsible?

The Defense Logistics Agency has the final authority to determine what excess military property is suitable for use in law enforcement activities.

But 1033 is primarily run by state program coordinators, who initially approve or deny local law enforcement requests for military gear.

"There is some vetting at our level," the defense official said, "but it's pretty minimal."

The logistics agency generally approves requests "as long as there's nothing crazy about it, such as a request for attack vehicles, according to the official."

The agency does on-site inspections to make sure police forces are abiding by regulations, such as maintaining proper inventory records.

Alabama and North Carolina have been suspended from the program, as have more than 100 local law enforcement agencies, for failing to comply with Pentagon regulations governing the possession of the gear, according to DOD officials.

If suspended agencies fail to correct the problems that have been identified, they can be permanently barred from participating in 1033 and their military equipment will be repossessed.

The Pentagon says it's not responsible for training police to use their military gear, nor are they responsible for how local law enforcement officials use what they've been given.

"It still is up to local law enforcement to determine how and when and where and under what circumstances they use excess military equipment," Kirby told reporters. "We don't take a position on the way the equipment is being used."

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NATION

Tensions flare, subside as Ferguson protests continue

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER

The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — Tensions briefly flared then subsided late Saturday night and early Sunday in Ferguson as nightly protests continued two weeks after a white city police officer fatally shot an unarmed black teenager.

Police reported only a handful of arrests, and traffic flowed freely along the West Florissant Avenue commercial corridor near the suburban St. Louis apartment complex where Ferguson officer Darren Wilson shot Michael Brown, 18, six times in the middle of the street on Aug. 9.

But once again, peaceful daytime protests gave way to angrier shouts and more defiant marchers as night fell — including some who argued angrily with one another. But well past midnight, there were no signs of police riot gear, tear gas or armored vehicles that marked earlier street skirmishes in the first week after Brown's death.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon reiterated his support Sunday for sticking with the St. Louis County

‘I think some of the frustration is dying down because more information is coming out.’

Alana Ramey

St. Louis resident

prosecutor, who has convened a grand jury to begin hearing evidence and to decide whether to indict the officer. The federal government also has launched its own investigation into the shooting.

“He was elected overwhelmingly by the people a number of times,” Nixon said of St. Louis County prosecutor Bob McCulloch on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” “He’s been through a lot. Certainly, with this level of attention, I think everyone will work hard to do their best work.”

On Saturday afternoon, a diverse group of protesters — many of them children — marched peacefully alongside community activists and uniformed police as calm largely prevailed for a fourth straight day in north St. Louis County.

“I think some of the frustration is dying down because more information is coming out,” said Alana Ramey, 25, a St. Louis resident. “I think there is more action going on. People are being more organized, and that is helping.”

The protesters included a dozen students and recent graduates of Harvard University who arrived in Ferguson after a 20-hour drive. They chatted amicably with Missouri Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson, who commended their passion and encouraged them to remain civically active.

“When we go back to our communities, there’s a Ferguson near us,” said the Rev. Willie Bodrick II, 26, of Roxbury, Mass., a youth minister and recent graduate of Harvard Divinity School.

The images of well-armed suburban police officers confronting protesters in Ferguson with tear gas and rubber bullets after the Aug. 9 shooting prompted widespread criticism of how local law enforcement agencies have used federal grants to obtain military gear from the Pentagon.

President Barack Obama ordered the White House to conduct a review of those programs after calling for more separation between the nation’s armed forces and civilian police.

About 10 miles south of Ferguson, supporters of Wilson rallied Saturday at a sports pub owned by the family of Mark Rodebaugh, a 21-year veteran of the St. Louis Police Department. Rodebaugh said he wanted to have the event because Wilson’s name has been “dragged through the mud.” He said it felt good to see supporters who weren’t officers or relatives of officers.

“We’ve got a hard job to do,” he said. “We want people to know they shouldn’t give up on law enforcement.”

Wilson, who has been on paid administrative leave, has not spoken publicly since the shooting, and Associated Press reporters have not been able to contact him.

Normandy High School, which Brown attended, observed a moment of silence Saturday morning at the start of a home football game.

“This is something we shouldn’t forget,” said Donald Vaughan Cross, 77, a Hanley Hills resident whose grandson played for the opposing team. “This is something that should be on the minds of everybody — young ones and old ones. And the old ones like myself, we remember.”

“It’s still going on. When is it going to stop? When is it going to end?”



HUY MACH, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

Supporters of Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson attend a rally for him Saturday at Barney's Sports Pub in St. Louis.

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ROBERT COHEN, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

Members of the St. Louis chapters of the NAACP and the National Urban League march on West Florissant Avenue in Ferguson, Mo., on Saturday.

NATION

6.0 quake rocks Northern Calif.

Injuries, damage, loss of power are reported

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — A large earthquake caused significant damage in California's northern Bay Area early Sunday, sending at least 70 people to a hospital, igniting fires, knocking out power to tens of thousands and sending residents running out of their homes in the darkness.

Vanessa DeGier, spokeswoman for Queen of the Valley hospital in Napa, said the facility had treated more than 70 people, most for cuts, bumps and bruises. She said the facility has treated a hip fracture and heart attack, but it's unclear if it was related to the magnitude-6.0 earthquake. The hospital had set up a triage tent and many people were still coming in, DeGier said.

Two major injuries were reported, and hospitals were busy with moderate injuries, Napa Division Fire Chief John Callanan said earlier.

The quake caused six significant fires, including at four mobile homes, Napa Division Fire Chief Darren Drake said. The damage from the fires is not yet clear but it appears significant, he said. Several other smaller fires were reported and firefighting efforts were complicated by broken water mains.

The earthquake struck just before 3:30 a.m. about 4 miles northwest of American Canyon, which is about 6 miles southwest of Napa, in California wine country, Leslie Gordon, of the U.S. Geological Survey, said. It's the largest earthquake to shake the Bay Area since the magnitude-6.9 Loma Prieta quake in 1989, the USGS said. That earthquake struck the San Francisco Bay Area on Oct. 17, 1989, during a World Series game between the San Francisco Giants and the Oakland Athletics, collapsing part of the Bay Bridge roadway and killing more than 60 people, most when an Oakland freeway fell.

"There's collapses, fires," said Napa Fire Capt. Doug Bridewell, standing in front of large pieces of masonry that broke loose from a turn-of-the-century office building where a fire had just been extinguished. "That's the worst shaking I've ever been in."

Bridewell, who said he had to climb over fallen furniture in his own home to check on his family before reporting to duty, said he was starting to see more reports of injuries.

The shaking emptied cabinets in homes and store shelves, set off car alarms and had residents of neighboring Sonoma County running out of their houses and talking about damage inside their homes. Officials said widespread



Above: Gurbir Bhandahl, an employee at a 7-Eleven store, cleans up after an earthquake Sunday in American Canyon, Calif.

Left: Rubble covers the sidewalk in front of the Vintners Collective multi-winery tasting room in Napa, Calif., following the earthquake.

AP photos

Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado. "The 6.0 is a sizeable quake for this area. It's a shallow quake. It's about 6 miles deep. We received hundreds of reports on our website from people that felt it in the surrounding area."

California Highway Patrol Officer Kevin Bartlett said cracks and damage to pavement closed the westbound Interstate 80 connector to westbound State Route 37 in Vallejo and westbound State Route 37 at the Sonoma off-ramp. He said there hadn't been reports of injuries or people stranded in their cars, but there were numerous flat tires from motorists driving over damaged roads.

Highway Patrol and the California Department of Transportation was checking roadways for damage, Bartlett said.

California Highway Patrol Officer Daniel Hill told KTVU-TV that road damage appears confined to the Napa and Sonoma areas. He said there appeared to be no damage to major bridges in the Bay Area.

2 adults, 3 kids die in fiery NY highway crash

BABYLON, N.Y. — Authorities say a car veered off a New York highway, struck a tree and burst into flames, killing the two adults and three children who were inside.

State police said early Sunday that a Honda Accord driven by Myriam Lebrun, 37, was westbound on the Southern State Parkway in Long Island when it left the highway just before 11 p.m. Saturday. The vehicle struck a tree before bursting into flames.

All five people in the car died. State police identified the other victims as Moise Yolande, 68; Marcus Jeanty, 14; Marcel Jeanty, 9; and Kayla Jeanty, 8.

State police say the cause of the crash is under investigation.

Car hits parade vehicle, killing one, injuring 10

LAPEER TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A car struck a parade vehicle Saturday in rural Michigan, killing an 80-year-old woman and injuring 10 other people, authorities said.

Lapeer County Sheriff's Detective Sgt. Jason Parks told The Associated Press that Jeanette Rumpz, of Metamora Township, died at the scene in Lapeer Township after she turned her car left and into the truck that had been converted to resemble a steam locomotive.

Parks said the 10 people in the parade truck who were hurt included two children who sustained minor injuries. Two adults have life-threatening injuries at a nearby hospital, he said.

Thousands in NY protest chokehold death

NEW YORK — Thousands of people expressing grief, anger and hope for a better future marched peacefully through Staten Island on Saturday to protest the chokehold death of an unarmed black man by a white police officer.

Police reported no arrests after the afternoon rally and march that drew well over 2,500 people to the streets where Eric Garner was taken to the ground on July 17 by a New York Police Department officer using a prohibited martial arts maneuver.

The Rev. Al Sharpton told them to remain nonviolent or go home, a warning he repeated hours later.

From The Associated Press

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WORLD

Israel targets big buildings in Gaza

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK
AND PETER ENAY
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli airstrikes leveled a seven-floor office building and severely damaged a two-story shopping center in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, signaling a new escalation in seven weeks of fighting with Hamas.

The strikes in the southern town of Rafah came just hours after Israel bombed an apartment tower in Gaza City, collapsing the 12-story building with 44 apartments. About 30 people were wounded in the strikes, but no one was killed, Palestinian officials said.

The targeting of large buildings appears to be part of a new military tactic by Israel. Over the weekend, the army began warning Gaza residents in automated phone calls that it would target buildings harboring "terrorist infrastructure" and that they should stay away.

A senior military official confirmed that Israel has a policy of striking at buildings containing Hamas operational centers or offices in which military activities are launched. The official said each strike required prior approval from military lawyers and

is carried out only after the local population is warned.

However, he said, there was now a widening of locations that the military can target. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to discuss the matter with reporters.

Speaking ahead of Israel's weekly cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Gaza residents to keep their distance from Hamas militants.

"I call on the people of Gaza to immediately evacuate any structure that Hamas is using to commit acts of terror," he said. "Every one of these structures is a target for us."

In the 12-story apartment tower, the target was a fourth-floor apartment where Hamas ran an operations center, according to Israeli media. In the past, Israel has carried out pinpoint strikes, targeting apartments in high-rises with missiles, while leaving the buildings standing. However, this time a decision was made to bring down the entire tower, according to Channel 10, an Israeli TV station.

The military declined immediate comment when asked why it collapsed the entire building instead of striking a specific apartment.

Meanwhile, Gaza militants con-



KHALIL HAMRA/AP

Palestinians inspect the rubble and salvage items Sunday from the Al-Zafer apartment tower following Israeli airstrikes that collapsed the 12-story building in Gaza City, Gaza Strip.

tinued to fire rockets and mortar shells at Israel, including at least 10 on Sunday, one of which wounded three people on the Israeli side of the main Gaza crossing, the military said. The Erez crossing is used by journalists, aid workers and Palestinians with Israeli permits to enter or leave Gaza.

That was in addition to more than 100 attacks on Saturday, most aimed at southern Israel.

Elsewhere, five rockets were fired from Syria and fell in open areas in northern Israel. It was not immediately clear whether they were fired by pro-government forces or rebel groups.

Nigeria: 35 policemen missing after attack

LAGOS, Nigeria — Nigeria's officers said they were searching for 35 missing policemen after two attacks on police training camps in northeastern Borno state, which is battling a five-year insurgency by the Boko Haram militant group.

Police force spokesman Emmanuel Ojukwu said Saturday the men went missing after an Aug. 20 attack was carried out on a training camp that led to a gunfight that lasted for several hours.

Ojukwu didn't say who was suspected to have carried out the attack, but the state is the stronghold of the Boko Haram group, which targets security forces, government officials and civilians in its campaign to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria.

Iran says Israeli drone downed near nuke site

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards is saying its forces have shot down an Israeli drone as it approached an Iranian nuclear site.

The guards issued a statement on its website saying its forces fired a missile at the drone as it neared its uranium enrichment facility in Natanz, more than 185 miles south of the capital, Tehran.

The statement did not say when it shot down the drone, nor did it elaborate on how the guards knew the drone was from Israel. Israeli officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Tropical storm Cristobal forms near Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas — A strengthening tropical depression that dumped heavy rains on parts of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic was upgraded early Sunday to a tropical storm named Cristobal as it passed closer to the Bahamas, the U.S. Hurricane Center said.

Cristobal originally formed as a depression over the Turks and Caicos islands on Saturday. It was the fourth depression of the Atlantic hurricane season.

Sunday morning, the depression had sustained winds of 35 mph and was located about 40 miles north northwest of Mayaguana island, the hurricane center said in a tropical advisory. The storm was moving northwest at about 9 mph.

Official: British Ebola patient to be evacuated

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — The first British citizen confirmed to be infected with the deadly Ebola disease is being evacuated from Sierra Leone on a jet sent by the Royal Air Force, a Sierra Leone official said Sunday.

The male patient, who has not been identified, was working at an Ebola treatment center in eastern Sierra Leone, the region most affected by the outbreak, said Sidie Yahya Tunis, director of communications for Sierra Leone's health ministry.

From The Associated Press

Aviation alert level lowered in Iceland

The Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — Iceland lowered its aviation alert level to orange from red Sunday, saying there was no sign of an imminent eruption at the Bardarbunga volcano.

Scientists at the Icelandic Meteorological Office said their announcement Saturday that the volcano had experienced a subglacial eruption was wrong.

But the office cautioned in a statement that seismic activity at the volcano, which has been hit by thousands of earthquakes over the past week, was not slowing, and an eruption remained a possibility in coming days.

Two earthquakes measuring over 5 in magnitude, the biggest yet — shook the volcano beneath Iceland's vast Vatnajökull glacier early Sunday.

Iceland had raised the alert for aviation Saturday to red, the highest level on a five-point scale, warning that an ash-emitting eruption could be imminent. An orange alert indicates "heightened or escalating unrest with increased potential of eruption."

After the alert was lowered, aviation authorities lifted a no-fly zone that had been imposed for 100 nautical miles by 140 nautical miles around the volcano.



SERGEI GRITS/AP



EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Left: A pro-Russia rebel delivers a speech Sunday from atop a damaged Ukrainian army armored personnel carrier on Donetsk's central square in eastern Ukraine. Right: Ukrainian soldiers march down Kiev's main street during a military parade on the 23rd anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Bitter divide underscored in Ukraine

BY EFREM LUKATSKY
AND LAURA MILLS
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — As armored vehicles rumbled through downtown Kiev in an ostentatious celebration of Ukraine's independence, pro-Russia rebels who are battling government forces in the east paraded prisoners of war down the busiest streets of Donetsk and displayed charred wreckage of destroyed Ukrainian tanks.

Sunday's rival demonstrations on Ukraine's 23rd anniversary of independence from the Soviet Union underscored the bitter divide in a country already five months into warfare and making

plans for potentially years of more tensions.

President Petro Poroshenko, addressing a highly militarized independence rally in Kiev, vowed to defeat the rebels and safeguard Ukraine's border with Russia by sharply raising defense spending by \$3 billion over the next three years, a 50 percent increase from current budget targets. He warned that Ukraine, too often in history, had been caught off guard by eastern invasions.

"It is clear that in the foreseeable future, there will always, unfortunately, be the threat of war," Poroshenko said. "And we not only have to learn to live with that, we must always be prepared to defend our independence."

The rebels responded with their own show of strength in their stronghold of Donetsk, parading dozens of captured soldiers through the streets as bystanders tossed eggs and bottles at them. The insurgents also dumped battle-scarred Ukrainian military equipment on a central square, a bold rebuke to Kiev's announcement that it plans to strengthen its military.

While public support and mobilization for Kiev's campaign against the separatists is growing in much of the country, resentments fester in much of the east, where civilian casualties and shelling, often from Ukrainian military positions, have become a part of daily life.

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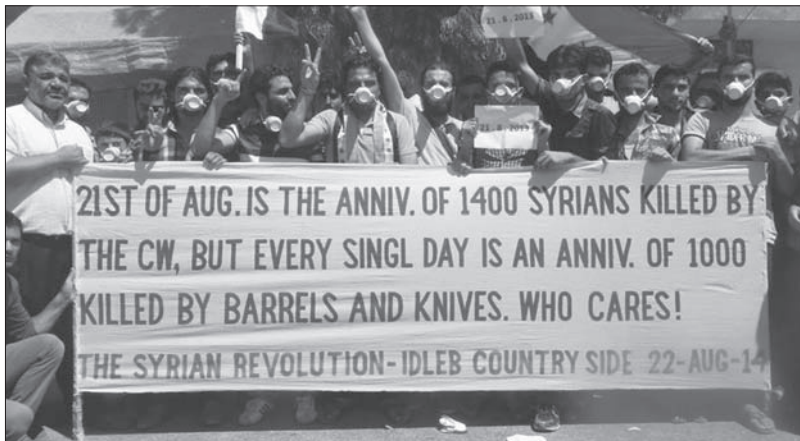
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OPINION



PROVIDED BY EOLIS NEWS NETWORK/AP

Anti-Syrian government protesters hold a banner and Syrian revolution flags during a demonstration Friday in Idlib province, north-eastern Syria.

A march to awakening in Syria

By MOHAMMED ALAA GHANEM

WASHINGTON
On Dec. 19, 1998, United States embassies across the Arab world felt the ire of residents outraged by U.S.-British airstrikes on Iraq. The most violent demonstrations occurred in Syria, where protesters stormed the U.S. and British embassies in Damascus. Protesters also destroyed the residence of U.S. Ambassador to Syria Ryan Crocker, who lodged vigorous objections with the Syrian government in response. I was among those protesters.

When I arrived at my high school for class that morning, the principal announced that lessons were canceled because we would be participating in a march. Students were shocked and delighted; any day without boring school lessons was a gift. But what was this about a march? Public expressions of anger were unheard of in Syria. I had glimpsed TV footage of marches abroad, but I had never seen one with my own eyes.

As the march began, I asked my classmate where we were going. "I don't know," he said apathetically, clearly preoccupied by female students who had joined the march. The crowd was swelling by the minute. We marched onto a highway that had been cleared of traffic, likely by the Syrian government. Government employees joined the march and traffic police began to lead the crowds. Apparently, the government had canceled work for public servants just as they canceled class at my public school. When we reached the U.S. Embassy, someone told us to stop. From that point on, events unfolded very quickly.

The crowd began chanting against the bombing of Iraq. Security forces handed stones to people, who threw them at the embassy. Someone scaled the embassy walls and burned the U.S. flag. The crowd erupted in jubilation. An angry mob ransacked the embassy compound. Someone directed us to the British Cultural Center and the U.S. ambassador's residence. An angry mob ransacked these buildings as well. Eventually, police waded into the crowd to disperse us. The rally ended.

In all this hubbub, I felt conflicted. Security forces clearly wanted us to engage

in violence, but I felt that throwing rocks or ransacking buildings ran contrary to my conscience. Instead, I spent the day peacefully chanting against the bombings and buying water bottles for those injured by tear gas. Looking back, this was a seminal moment in my life. My actions on that day marked the first time I knowingly disobeyed the wishes of Syrian authorities based on my sense of decency.

But I would do so again.
As a senior in college, I saw a local teenager I knew running frantically through a park followed by seven or eight men. His mother was crying on a nearby park bench. I confronted the men: "Listen up! This boy is from the neighborhood. His father is dead and he has only his mother. Go near him again, you'll get trouble from the entire neighborhood." Unbeknownst to me, the men were plainclothes military police-men. I was detained and faced a six-month sentence in the notorious Adra Prison on bogus charges of "impersonating an intelligence officer" and "assailing military police officers." While in detention, I witnessed the inhumane conditions of Syrian military prisons, where inmates laid on lumpy mattresses on the floor of overcrowded cells. I saw ferocious beatings and heard the anguished screams of detainees under torture. During the daily muster, which was supposed to be a dignified show of allegiance to Syria, I heard military police giggle and shout vulgar profanities at the prisoners and each other, mocking the system they were tasked to enforce.

I also learned how justice took place under the regime of Bashar Assad. After a few days in detention, I was tried in military court, even though I was a civilian. The judge convicted me before allowing me to utter a word in my defense. A half-hour after my conviction, I was summoned to the office of a high-level military police officer who knew my mother through professional contacts. He told her: "Here is your son. Take him and go." I was dismissed as quickly and arbitrarily as I was convicted.

I was not relieved as I left the military police facilities; I was angry. How could my country have been ruled by such a corrupt regime for all this time? What could I do to outsmart this venal police apparatus and change the power structure? I resolved

that I would do what I could to end Assad's rule nonviolently, even if this was grounds for my execution.

Today, I am a devoted supporter of the Syrian Revolution. When the first protests began in 2011, I helped nonviolent activists target the Assad regime's pillars of support. When rebel fighters took Syria's most populous province of Aleppo, I toured the region to see how Syrians were coping with the chaos, to discuss the military situation with the moderate armed opposition, and to aid nascent government structures and civil society initiatives. In March, I monitored democratic provincial elections in Aleppo that were Syria's first in 50 years. Early this month, my colleagues from the Coalition for a Democratic Syria and I hosted the regime defector "Caesar," who smuggled out graphic photos of more than 11,000 people killed in Assad's military prisons, which show the grisly fate that might have awaited me at the prison of Adra.

But Ambassador Crocker, whose home I refrained from attacking 16 years ago, has emerged as one of the leading voices for U.S. collaboration with the Assad regime. Last December, Crocker described Assad as the "least worst option" and stated that upcoming talks at Geneva were a chance to quietly resume ties to Assad. His ideas may have gained traction within some quarters of the Obama administration in recent months as officials desperately look for new ways to counter the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Sham.

Ambassador Crocker and I share one thing in common: We have both seen the Assad regime's brutal tactics firsthand. But while I responded by risking my life to sow the seeds of revolution as a pro-democracy activist, the ambassador has drawn closer to Assad, even though that could mean thousands of additional deaths of innocents at the hands of the regime. Some days, I wonder how the ambassador and I could have reached such radically different conclusions. But I will never regret my decision to seek the Assad regime's overthrow, regardless of how many times I must face its hard-fisted brutality again.

Mohammed Alaa Ghanem, senior political adviser and governor of the Syrian Revolution, is an American citizen in Washington and board member of the Coalition for a Democratic Syria, wrote this for The Washington Post.

OPINION

5 myths about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

BY JEFFREY D. ROTHSTEIN

Unless you've been living with your head under a bucket, you've heard about or participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge—an effort to raise money for ALS research by dousing cold water on yourself and/or donating \$100. The success of the viral marketing campaign will not be complete, however, without a more thorough understanding of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease that afflicts 30,000 Americans and kills up to 6,000 people every year. Here are some of the most prominent myths.

1. ALS is caused by Lyme disease or other infections.

Because ALS symptoms include fatigue, muscle weakness and muscle twitching, early on it can look like other very treatable illnesses. One that commonly comes up is Lyme disease, an infectious disease resulting from a tick bite. Unlike ALS, Lyme is usually treatable with antibiotics. Lyme disease does not cause ALS, and generally in a diagnostic workup, a neurologist can easily separate ALS from Lyme infections, either clinically or with testing.

There is no reliable data to suggest that ALS is started by an infection or transmitted by patients to others. In fact, in about 90 percent of cases diagnosed by neurologists, ALS happens out of the blue, what we call "sporadic," and the cause isn't known. About 10 percent of the time, ALS is inherited through a defective gene; that is, a patient has a family member who also has the disease. Very recently we learned that even in patients who have no family history of ALS, a gene defect known as C9orf72 can cause the disease. With a simple blood test, we can determine if a patient carries one of the genes that causes ALS.

2. ALS affects only motor activity.
This is a long-standing myth held by physicians and patients: that ALS patients'

hands remain sharp as their bodies deteriorate. But newer studies show that about 20 to 30 percent of patients develop a mild cognitive impairment, while a very small number, about 5 to 10 percent, get severe dementia. Generally ALS begins in a fairly nonspecific way, with weakness in a person's hand or foot. It is often initially diagnosed incorrectly as carpal tunnel syndrome, or a pinched nerve in the neck or back. But unlike those conditions, ALS is generally not painful.

Slowly, over months or in some cases years, the weakness progresses from one hand to the other, from one foot and leg to the others. Eventually it affects all limbs, as well as the muscles used to chew, swallow and breathe. It's the weakness or failure of the breathing muscles that makes ALS fatal. And that's the particularly devastating part of the disease; unlike cancer, with its rare but real remissions, ALS is always fatal. Patients might choose to have a ventilator artificially breathe for them. That delays death, but not the progressive weakening and paralysis of all muscles.

3. ALS is a disease of old people.

This idea comes from the observation that older people get degenerative diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and those who become the public faces of the disease are typically older. But the median age for the onset of ALS is 54—and I don't think that's old. Lou Gehrig was diagnosed in his mid-30s and passed away from ALS at age 38.

The age range for developing ALS is large, from teenagers to as old as one can get. One out of every 800 men and about one out of 1,000 women in the United States will die from ALS. Almost everyone will have a friend, neighbor or family member who succumbs to the disease.

4. ALS is caused by sports.

We don't know if this is true for all sports. Some data suggest that football

players are at higher risk to develop ALS, but more research needs to be done to see how widespread that risk is for other contact sports. There have been a number of prominent young athletes with ALS, starting with Gehrig. Steve Gleason, formerly a defensive back with the New Orleans Saints, has wonderfully shown how patients can fight the disease, using various tools to help them communicate when their vocal muscles start to fail, while they await better therapies to stop or reverse the disease. He's also done the Ice Bucket Challenge—naked.

There is incomplete research suggesting that a career in professional sports may increase a person's likelihood of getting ALS, possibly because of trauma to athletes' nervous systems. But most others who get the disease are relatively inactive. Some have thought that exercise makes ALS worse, but as best as neurologists can tell, muscle activity will not worsen the disease. In fact, an ongoing study at the Johns Hopkins ALS clinic is trying to determine if regular, simple exercise can slow the progression of ALS. For some patients, exercise can make them very tired, very quickly, but there's no good evidence that exercise speeds up the disease.

5. There is no cure for ALS because no company cares about finding one.

This idea stems from the fact that we have so few drugs that slow the progression of ALS. Only one FDA-approved drug, riluzole, approved in 1995, exists for ALS. And the disease only modestly. Since then, there have been many clinical trials of medications designed to slow ALS, but all have failed, in part because of incomplete understanding of the disease.

Despite such setbacks, there has been a significant increase in the number of pharmaceutical companies that are interested in ALS and have the right resources to carry out research and clinical trials. This

rising interest over the past few years may reflect the exciting discoveries about ALS and the new tools to study it—perhaps one of the most important being stem cells from patients. These cells may better reflect the disease and allow better drug development.

ALS research is largely funded by the National Institutes of Health and several nonprofit organizations, including the Robert Packard Center for ALS Research at Johns Hopkins, the ALS Association and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. (My research is funded by the NIH, the Department of Defense, the ALS Association and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.)

The Ice Bucket Challenge taking over our social media feeds has certainly increased awareness of ALS, along with donations to these philanthropic organizations and the academic labs they fund. The ALS Association, for instance, raised \$31.5 million from July 29 to Aug. 20, compared with \$1.9 million in the same period last year. That could eventually filter down to more drugs becoming available. New drugs for the nervous system are almost always based on mechanisms of disease discovered in academic labs, and much as 20 percent of new FDA-approved drugs come directly from academic labs.

The Ice Bucket Challenge has been criticized as a waste of water and money. And some have questioned whether ALS deserves this much attention. But from my viewpoint—and that of many of my patients—the Ice Bucket Challenge could be the right step to a better understanding of ALS and better treatment. I took the challenge—and challenged other companies, universities, and even the U.S. government and the NIH to take it as well.

Jeffrey D. Rothstein, a neurologist and professor at Johns Hopkins University, wrote this column for The Washington Post.

Charities left out in the cold by ice bucket fad

BY MICHAEL HILTZIK

Americans are probably not unique in treating philanthropy as a sort of game, with the goal of making it go down painlessly.

The ice bucket challenge sweeping the nation—or at least Facebook and Twitter—is another example. It's a system that includes credit card companies making a Christmas donation every time you charge a purchase, or shoe companies sending a pair to Africa when you buy one for yourself, or your pledging money for every mile that someone else runs a charity race.

On the surface there's nothing wrong with any of this, since every dollar donated means one dollar more. But deeper down, the ice bucket challenge illustrates why it's a problem.

The challenge benefits the ALS Association, which supports research into the degenerative condition ALS—amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease.

As described by the association, the challenge "involves people getting doused with buckets of ice water on video, posting that video to social media, then nominating others to do the same, all in an effort to raise ALS awareness." Those who refuse to take the challenge are asked to make a donation to the ALS charity of their choice." (The commonly suggested donation is \$100.)

Plainly, there's something of a perverse incentive here. Those pictured on Facebook or Twitter dousing themselves with ice water are ostensibly people who refused to donate.



DOUGLAS GORENSTEIN, NBC/AP

Jimmy Fallon dunks a bucket of ice water over the head of actress Lindsay Lohan as she participates in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" in New York on Wednesday. The success of the fundraising craze is making charitable organizations rethink how they connect with potential donors, specifically through social media.

But since dozens of celebrities have made videos of themselves getting doused—Matt Lauer, Mike Trout, Martha Stewart, etc.—we can assume that the principle has been turned around. The challenge

has morphed into a device for increasing awareness and therefore fundraising for ALS research.

The first issue raised by the ice bucket challenge is whether this money is being put to its best use. That's not a rap on the ALS Association, which gets good marks from the watchdog group Charity Navigator. Nor is it about whether ALS warrants this level of attention and charitable giving. It's whether ALS warrants the attention, compared with other possible causes.

ALS certainly is a devastating condition for those who have it and for their families and caregivers. It's almost invariably fatal, with most victims living two to five years after symptoms first appear, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Researchers are still struggling to understand its causes.

But ALS is also a rare disease; the threshold specified in the federal Rare Disease Act of 2002 is a nationwide incidence of 200,000 patients. The CDC estimates the prevalence of ALS in the U.S. at about 12,000 people. The ALS Association says 30,000, but hasn't responded to my inquiry about the discrepancy.

Even taking the ALS Association figure, the disease is rare, far outstripped by many other conditions requiring research funding. These include Alzheimer's (an estimated 5.2 million patients in the U.S.) and diabetes (25.8 million).

Stunt philanthropy like the ice bucket challenge doesn't accommodate those sorts of disparities, and it's not clear it just feeds whatever charity hits on a catchy

device and treats all causes as essentially equivalent, distinguished only by their claim on public attention.

The result is that "the most successful charities will be those that are best at soliciting funds, not those that are best at making the world a better place," as the British philanthropic organizer William MacAskill puts it.

Most people prompted by ice bucket publicity to make a donation probably don't know much about ALS beyond the fact that Lou Gehrig got it (maybe they know about Stephen Hawking, too).

That would be all right if new donations to ALS added to the total of charitable giving. But the evidence is to the contrary. The concern of philanthropy experts like MacAskill is that high-profile fundraising campaigns end up cannibalizing other donations—those inclined to donate \$100 to charity this summer, or this year, will judge that they've met their social obligations by spending the money on ALS.

The explosive spread of the ice bucket challenge could even end up hurting ALS fundraising in the long term. The challenge is a fad, and fads by their nature burn out.

You want to contribute to the fight against ALS, great. But if you're doing it just because you saw or heard about Bill Gates, Jimmy Fallon, Justin Timberlake or Ethel Kennedy dumping ice water on their head, maybe you should give a bit more thought to where you donate your money.

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

WORLD

NEW STUDY EXPLORES THE SINISTER SIDE OF MEERKATS

By Christopher Torchia ■ *The Associated Press*

JOHANNESBURG

One of the most captivating sights of African wildlife is that of dark-eyed meerkats standing side-by-side on their hind legs, as though posing for a group photograph. They look cuddly and endearing. But a new study says they have a dark side.

The dominant female meerkat in a group banishes the other females when they give birth, killing and even eating their offspring to ensure a plentiful food supply for the alpha couple's own pups and a labor pool of meerkat babysitters who don't have their own young to rear.

In the mass media, meerkats have a gentler image, inspiring advertisers, a character in the animated movie "The Lion King" and a TV documentary series that told the story of a meerkat family in southern Africa. That television show, "Meerkat Manor," explored the meerkats' often harsh existence but also gave names to the animal "stars," helping to get viewers emotionally involved.

Flower was one of those meerkats. In light of the new study, Cannibal could be an apt name for a dominant female meerkat.

Meerkat Manor stands in an enclosure at the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa in Pretoria. Meerkats are matriarchal; after the dominant female gives birth, she will kill other females in the gang to ward off competition for food and resources. This competition can also be seen in captive meerkats.

PHOTOS BY THEMBA HADEBE/AP

The recent study by a group of British and South African universities, as well as the Kalahari Meerkat Project in South Africa, builds on observations that dominant meerkats use violence to regulate breeding in their own group and to survive in tough, desert environments.

"Since meerkats are cute and fluffy, and have been saccharine, anthropomorphized poster children for happy family life, it comes across as more shocking," the study's leader, Dr. Matthew Bell of the University of Edinburgh's School of Biological Sciences, wrote in an email to The Associated Press. Contrary to the public perception, he wrote, meerkat lives are "nasty, brutish and short!"

The study, published in July in *Nature Communications*, an online journal, analyzed the effect of giving contra-

ceptive jabs to adult female helpers in 12 groups of meerkats in the Kalahari Desert to ensure they could not reproduce for six months. During that period, dominant females were less aggressive toward the subordinates, foraged more, gained more weight and had bigger pups.

The female helpers, in turn, provided more care and food for the dominant female's offspring, according to the research.

"We've done the first clear experiment that measures the value that dominants gain from suppressing their subordinates," Bell wrote. "Such benefits have always been assumed, but never clearly confirmed."

Conflict occurs in many species, but meerkat societies in particular provide researchers with good opportunities to measure the costs of that conflict, said Dr. Andrew Young, an evolutionary biologist at Britain's University of Exeter who was not involved in Bell's study.

"That's sort of the niche in which meerkats fit, as a nice model because there's very strong hierarchy

but subordinates do still try to breed," Young said. In contrast, he said, only dominant female mole rats breed and the subordinate mole rats don't even try to reproduce.

Meerkats are also competitive in captivity, said Agnes Maluleke of the Johannesburg Zoo, which has nearly 20 meerkats. The zoo has had to split a group when a young meerkat challenged a dominant but weakening one in a vicious scrap that Maluleke described as: "I'm fighting for life or death because I want to take over."

Meerkats, who are a member of the mongoose family and can have several litters a year, generally live fewer than 10 years in the wild but survive longer in the more secure environment of a zoo, Maluleke said.

FreeMe, a South African rehabilitation center for indigenous creatures, annually receives dozens of meerkats, many of which were part of the illegal pet trade and had started biting their owners. Nicci Wright, a senior animal manager at the shelter, said some meerkats had been named Timon, the meerkat in Disney's "The Lion King."

"People think they're very sweet and very cute," Wright said. "They haven't spoken to anybody who knows them properly."



In the mass media, meerkats are depicted as being cuddly and endearing when in reality they use violence to regulate breeding and ensure survival in the wild.



SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

THE SCIENCE OF SATISFACTION

Study: Pleasant surprises play a big role in our level of happiness

By MEERI KIM

Special to The Washington Post

Do you remember the last time you were dreading something, only to have it turn out to be a pleasant surprise? Maybe it was a bad summer blockbuster you were forced to watch, or a blind date set up by your parents.

You turn up, grumbling and prepared to hate every second of it. But then, a funny thing happens: You crack a smile — laugh out loud, even — and before you know it, you're having a grand old time.

It turns out that the element of surprise has a big impact on how we feel from moment to moment and that we'll be happier if something was unexpectedly satisfying as opposed to knowingly so, according to a new mathematical model of happiness. The study was published online this month in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"Happiness is not about how well you're doing in general but, rather, if you're doing better than expected," said study author and neuroscientist Robb Rutledge, of the Max Planck UCL Cen-

tre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research.

For instance, say you go to a restaurant where the food was the best you've ever had. According to the happiness equation, you would actually be happier at the end of the meal if you had expected it to be just average, as opposed to assuming it would be as delicious as it was.

"Most of our senses are much more tuned to changes in things than to levels, and the same is true for happiness,"

said economist George Loewenstein, of Carnegie Mellon University, who was not involved in the study. "This ensures that however successful we are, we are always going to be driving for more."

'All models are simplifications of reality. But their central insight that happiness depends on how reality pans out relative to expectation is a correct one, in my view.'

George Loewenstein
Carnegie Mellon University

But this doesn't mean that having low expectations is the path to happiness, because the model also states that such pessimism leads to discontentment while you wait for an outcome.

So if you make plans with a flaky friend and assume he'll cancel, you'll take a hit on your happiness in the meantime even if you experience a boost when he shows up on time.

On the other hand, imagine bubbling with anticipation about finally securing concert tickets to go see your favorite musician.

"The whole day, you might be a little bit happier as a result," Rutledge said, even if the performance eventually disappoints and causes unhappiness later on. "Before you find out the outcome, you'll be happier if your expectation is higher."

These two factors — degree of surprise and overall expectation — play a dual role in determining our momentary well-being, although Rutledge found that surprise matters more. His team is testing people with depression to investigate how their emotions deviate from the model with the hope that such knowledge can somehow lead to better treatment options.

Using an MRI scanner, Rutledge and his colleagues first measured the brain activity of 26 subjects who played a

gambling game. Even though the players on average earned a net profit, their self-reported happiness did not increase between the beginning and the end of the experiment. In fact, there wasn't any significant relationship between monetary earnings and happiness.

What did contribute to happiness was having a good chance of earning money or getting an unexpected reward.

"We're happy when we have a rosy view of the future, but we're also happy that the present exceeds what our expectations were," Loewenstein said.

Also, quite unsurprisingly, the model found that past rewards had less of an impact on contentment as time passed.

With the MRI data, the researchers found that signals from a region of the brain called the striatum could be used to predict how happy people will be at any given time during the experiment. The researchers then created a smartphone app to test their model on a much wider audience — a total of 18,420 online participants.

The app featured the same decision-making game as the MRI experiment, and although the subjects were remote and anonymous,

the results were still consistent with the model.

"All models are simplifications of reality," Loewenstein said. "But their central insight that happiness depends on how reality pans out relative to expectation is a correct one, in my view."

He notes that, while the idea behind the happiness equation isn't new, the study is a "strong and interesting" piece of supportive evidence.

But can we use this knowledge to boost our own well-being? Lowering expectations as a tactic has already been ruled out, but the study does hint at why you might not feel as elated after reaching an expected goal as you might think.

"People are always pursuing goals, and when they reach the goal, they don't end up being as satisfied as they perceive they'd be — as if happiness is held out in front of us, and we never quite achieve it," Loewenstein said.

On the other hand, he suggests that there might be some consolation in realizing that we are all hard-wired this way in order to keep us moving forward.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Zoo staff say elephant died of old age

WA SEATTLE — Watoto, a 45-year-old African elephant known to generations of visitors at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, died unexpectedly Friday, zoo officials said.

Keepers arrived at 7 a.m. to find the elephant lying on her side. They tried to lift her first using cloth straps and later with a piece of crane-like machinery, but medical staff decided it was futile and euthanized her. A necropsy was scheduled, but staff said they believe the death was due to old age.

Watoto, who weighed more than four tons and stood 9 feet tall, was one of three elephants at the zoo. She was born in Kenya in 1969 or 1970 and brought to Seattle as an orphan in 1971.

Group opposes tax incentives for ark park

KY FRANKFORT — A national organization for the separation of church and state is urging Gov. Steve Beshear to deny state tax incentives for the Noah's Ark theme park in northern Kentucky.

The Courier-Journal reported that the group objects to hiring practices by the park's parent organization, Answers in Genesis.

Americans United for the Separation of Church and State said in a letter to Beshear that the website of Answers in Genesis requires that job applicants agree with its Christian "Statement of Faith."

Americans United officials said an applicant must profess that homosexuality is a sin on par with bestiality and incest. The group says the policy amounts to religious discrimination.

The coordinator of the theme park project, Mike Zovath, said hiring policies have not been written.

County wrongly figured blood-alcohol levels

PA SOMERSET — People who told police they were not that drunk while driving may have been right in one Pennsylvania county.

Somerset County District Attorney Lisa Lazzari-Strasler said her office has not been performing a mathematical calculation needed to convert hospital tests on drivers' blood, which enable the results to be used as evidence in court, the Daily American reported.

She said the hospital began testing drivers' blood serum — or plasma — not whole blood, in June 2010. As a result, the blood-alcohol content has been overestimated by as much as 15 percent on DUI cases using hospital blood samples since then.

Lazzari-Strasler said her office has reviewed more than 570 cases and eliminated them as being affected by the discrepancy. The remaining 180-plus that could have been affected will be reviewed this week.

Activists challenge state taxes on pot

CO DENVER — A handful of marijuana activists in Denver have lost their



ELLEN F. O'CONNELL, HAZLETON (PA.) STANDARD-SPEAKER/AP

Fly like a Fortress

Mikey Heintzelman, 4, imitates flying like the B-17 Flying Fortress behind him last week at the Hazleton Municipal Airport in Hazleton, Pa. The B-17 was one of three World War II military aircraft on display in conjunction with the nationwide Wings of Freedom Tour.

first effort to have pot taxes thrown out.

The activists argued in a hearing Friday that because pot is illegal under federal law, the state of Colorado can't collect taxes on the drug.

Denver District Court Judge John Madden rejected their request for an injunction on the taxes.

The Denver Post reported

that Madden says the pot taxes aren't causing immediate injury. But the lawsuit is proceeding to a full hearing.

Hostess closing Twinkie's birthplace

IL CHICAGO — About 400 people will lose their jobs and a piece of American bak-

ing history will shut down when Hostess Brands closes the suburban Chicago bakery where the Twinkie was invented.

Hostess said Wednesday it will close the bakery in Schiller Park in October. The bakery had reopened a little more than a year ago following Hostess' 2012 bankruptcy.

Hostess Brands CEO Bill Toler said the company is clos-

THE CENSUS



\$2.4M

The amount of speed camera fines a suburban New York county is forgoing after officials discovered problems with cameras installed at six school locations in July. Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano said five cameras issued tickets on days when school was not in session, and cameras at a sixth location began operating prematurely. While amnesty was declared for the 30,000 citations issued in July, enforcement will resume when school opens in September, he said.

ing the plant as it tries to improve efficiency.

Almanac predicts colder winter, hotter summer

NH CONCORD — The Old Farmer's Almanac, the familiar, 223-year-old chronicle of climate, folksy advice and fun facts, is predicting a colder winter and warmer summer for much of the nation.

Published Wednesday, the New Hampshire-based almanac predicts a "super-cold" winter in the eastern two-thirds of the country. The west will remain a little bit warmer than normal.

Most of the Northeast is expected to get more snowfall than normal, though it will be below normal in New England.

The almanac, which has about an 80 percent success rate in its forecasts, employs modern technology but still uses the "secret formula" that founder Robert Thomas devised in 1792. By combining the study of sunspots, prevailing weather patterns and basic meteorology, the almanac's weather staff comes up with a long-range forecast.

Police: Woman ran over ex-boyfriend's new girl

CA SAN DIEGO — A San Diego woman was arrested after an incident in which police allege she rammed her ex-boyfriend's car and then ran over his new girlfriend.

The Los Angeles Times reported that Shantelle Glass, 23, was arrested Friday on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and attempted murder. She remained jailed Saturday.

Police said the woman spotted her ex-boyfriend in the Oak Park neighborhood around 10:30 p.m. Friday and rammed his car several times. When a 26-year-old woman got out of the car, police allege Glass ran her over. The driver fled but was later arrested.

Authorities said the victim's injuries were significant but not life-threatening.

From wire reports

FACES

Emmy hopefuls play the angles to nab trophies

BY LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

If it walks like a drama and talks like a drama and yet calls itself a comedy, that's just fine with the Emmy Awards.

But the audience for the ceremony may suffer momentary confusion when, say, the Netflix women's prison saga "Orange Is the New Black" pops up as a nominee for best comedy series.

While the Emmys have included category-busters before, the 66th prime-time contest is an especially freewheeling one.

"The Emmys are being loosey-goosey about category placement," said Tom O'Neil, author of "The Emmys" reference book and organizer of the Gold Derby awards website.

Such flexibility isn't unusual when it comes to TV awards in Britain, where category definitions are less stringent and series formats are more fluid than in the U.S., said Gareth Neame, the U.K. executive producer of PBS' Emmy-winning "Downton Abbey," a nominee once more.

"My view is all these producers, studios and (networks) are just giving their best shot to try to get their shows nominated, and what producer would do that?" Neame said.

The tactic isn't frivolous. Shows are angling to better their odds of winning TV's top honor, which can bring not only prestige but also possibly more viewers—and attention niche shows such as "Orange Is the New Black" crave.

Emmy bragging rights are another matter. With the explosion of acclaimed cable and online content, traditional broadcast networks are finding themselves shut out or lightly represented in the major categories including best drama and comedy series. Network stars are being elbowed aside, too.

NBC late-night host and ceremony host Seth Meyers is ready to take advantage of broadcast's plight.

"That's a thing that I think



DAN STEINBERG, INVISION FOR THE TELEVISION ACADEMY/AP

From left, Television Academy Chairman and CEO Bruce Rosenblum, host Seth Meyers, and executive producer Don Mischer roll out the red carpet at the academy's 66th Primetime Emmy Awards Press Preview Day and Red Carpet Rollout at Nokia Theater L.A. LIVE on Aug. 20 in Los Angeles. The show airs Tuesday on AFN-Prime. For a complete list of nominees: emmys.com.

'The Emmys are being loosey-goosey about category placement.'

Tom O'Neil
author of "The Emmys" and organizer
of the Gold Derby awards website

everyone in the audience will be aware of, and being someone who's on a broadcast network makes it a lot more fun to make jokes about than if I were someone on the cable side lordling it over everyone," he said, chuckling.

The decision by "Orange" to compete as a comedy despite its bleak setting puts pressure on four-time best-comedy winner "Modern Family." The ABC series — vying for a record-tying fifth win (with "Frasier") against a buzzy Internet newcomer — may look a lot less modern to Emmy voters.

The Netflix series already flexed its muscle at the creative arts Emmys held a week ago, when Uzo Aduba was honored as best guest actress in a comedy for her role as prisoner Suzanne

actor bid for William H. Macy.

The other comedy series contenders are "The Big Bang Theory," "Louie," "Silicon Valley" and "Veep."

Shifting categories isn't unprecedented. In the 1950s, "Father Knows Best" moved between comedy and drama and captured trophies in each, and "Moonlighting" did the same in the 1980s, O'Neil said.

The academy tightened the rules in 2009, but obviously didn't make them ironclad.

Offbeat interpretations of what a comedy may encompass presents a challenge for more than Emmy viewers.

"When you're putting clip packages together for comedy series, in some instances it's harder to find something to put into a clip

package where someone would say, 'Yeah, that looks like a comedy to me.' " said Don Mischer, the ceremony's executive producer.

HBO's "True Detective" is unmistakably a drama, but one with miniseries trappings: a closed-ended story and two movie-star leads (Matthew McConaughey, Woody Harrelson) who have said they committed to just one season. Because of a TV academy rule involving the show's Writers Guild of America credit, however, it was eligible to compete as a series.

Other series competing for the best drama trophy are "Game of Thrones," "Downton Abbey," "House of Cards" and "Mad Men."

Kathy Griffin issues challenge to Nicki Minaj

The Associated Press

While most people are inviting friends to complete the ice bucket challenge, Kathy Griffin has another proposal for Nicki Minaj: a booty challenge.

The 53-year-old comedian said after watching the eye-popping, rump-shaking music video for Minaj's new hit single, "Anaconda," she wants to go toe-to-toe with the rap diva.

"Of course, everyone's talking about that 'Anaconda' video and it's fantastic. It's a lot of boo-ay and I would like to challenge Nicki to a boo-ay-off," Griffin said in an interview last week.

The "Anaconda" video has racked in 35 million views since its Aug. 19 release and has trended on Twitter throughout its first week. "It's like the ice bucket challenge, but it doesn't even have any charity associ-

ated with it at all," Griffin continued. "It's completely gratuitous."

Griffin also has some stiff competition when it comes to the music world apart from Minaj: She recently released a comedy album, and she hopes to mirror her success at the Grammy Awards this year, where she won best comedy album for "Calm Down Gurrr!" after five consecutive losses in the category.

"I'm going for another nomination, shamelessly," said Griffin, who is only one of five women to win the honor.

Her likely opponents: Weird Al Yankovic with the chart-topping "Mandatory Fun," which featured a stream of highly viewed — and highly praised — music videos. There's also Sarah Silverman, who will release "We Are Miracles" on Sept. 23.

"We know each other's game," she said

of Silverman. "Mine is two hours. I have a standing comedy disorder. Once I get onstage I can't stop talking."

Other news

■ A former child model accusing "X-Men" director Bryan Singer of sex abuse in Hawaii said he wants to dismiss the lawsuit — not because it lacks merit but because he can't find a new attorney to represent him. Michael Egan III said in a court filing Aug. 20 that he previously sought the dismissal in sealed documents in federal court in Honolulu. He wants the case dismissed without prejudice, meaning he could file it again later.

■ The U.S. Treasury Department's inspector general has determined Jay Z and Beyoncé's fifth-anniversary trip to Cuba



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Comedian Kathy Griffin, right, was inspired by Nicki Minaj's latest video.

last year was legal under rules allowing educational travel to the island. The music superstars angered several Republican politicians in Florida with their four-day visit to Havana, which saw them eating in some of the city's high-end private restaurants and touring colonial Old Havana while Jay Z puffed on a Cuban cigar. Washington's 51-year embargo makes it illegal for U.S. citizens to visit Cuba for mere tourism.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Sriracha maker tries to use spotlight

By FRANK SHYONG
Los Angeles Times

IRWINDALE, Calif. — David Tran once carefully guarded the secrets of Sriracha hot sauce.

The famously reclusive chief executive never advertised, granted few interviews, and even designed his own machines, taking up a blowtorch to prevent his competitors from duplicating his methods.

But after complaints of a smell coming from the Irwindale factory last year sparked months of sustained media coverage, Tran and his 34-year-old company are trying to get comfortable in the spotlight — and to use the attention to their advantage.

Last week, Huy Fong Foods invited the public to the factory for tours and tastings as a way of moving on from the controversy. More than 2,000 people were expected to attend the weekend's events at the factory the city of Irwindale had once declared a

public nuisance.

A party-like atmosphere prevailed Friday in a parking lot where security guards used to knock on the window of any car that drove in. Cheerful bunches of red, green and white balloons bobbed in the breeze, and Tran greeted each guest at the door, shaking hands and mugging for Instagram photos next to a cardboard cutout of himself in a tuxedo. In his pocket, his iPhone rang constantly.

At the registration table, employees checked names on a list as a speaker blasted a playlist of Sriracha-inspired rap songs. Every visitor got a brochure, a gauzy, red hairnet, and a ticket entitling the bearer to a T-shirt and a 9-ounce bottle of Sriracha hot sauce. Tours ended with tastings of Sriracha caramels, popcorn and ice cream. The new company store, the Rooster Room, was a particularly popular attraction.

"They have underwear!" said one woman, rushing inside.

It seems the smell controversy has only served to multiply the sauce's popularity — a Google Trends graph measuring the search frequency of the word "Sriracha" looks like a hockey stick on its side. This year, more than 1,700 people attended the plant's daily tours — more than the entire population of the city of Irwindale.

Beth Mikah, of La Verne, Calif., invited all of the women in her hiking club. She's already toured the factory once, but she never got to see the peppers in action. She surged ahead of the group when the first truck of peppers pulled up to the back of the plant, watching ardently as a shower of jalapeños tumbled onto the conveyor belt.

"Oh my, look at this," Mikah said. "This is what we're here to see. This is amazing!"

Melissa Arrmitage, 35, and Andrew Coates, 39, made the drive from Orange County for the tour. "We came to show everyone

that the smell doesn't burn your throat," Coates said.

For a company that has launched three culinary festivals, a documentary and several cookbooks, Huy Fong Foods is still a small operation of about 80 full-time employees. None of them is a public relations specialist or event planner.

But Tran recognizes the favorable public opinion could armor the company against future crackdowns. He still fears interference from the city, and he chafes under new state health regulations that require him to hold his sauce for 35 days before shipping. The infamous "NO TEAR GAS MADE HERE" banner, which was Tran's defiant response to a judge's ruling last year, is still flying. But it faces away from the street, tucked to the back of the security guard building.

"For 34 years, we have never had any kind of grand opening event. But people asked for this, so we're doing it," Tran said.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Euro costs (Aug. 25) | \$1.3635 |
| Dollar buys (Aug. 25) | €0.7334 |
| British pound (Aug. 25) | \$1.70 |
| Japanese yen (Aug. 25) | 101.00 |
| South Korean won (Aug. 25) | 994.00 |

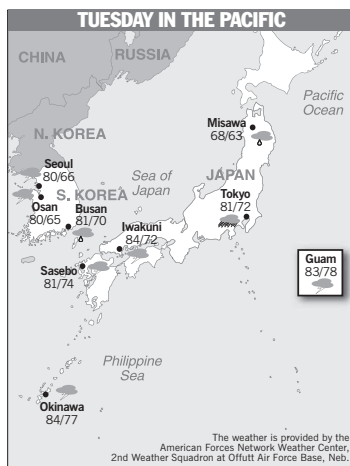
| Commercial rates | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3771 |
| British pound | \$1.6577/0.6032 |
| Canada (dollar) | 1.0947 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.1515 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 5.6301 |
| Euro (Pound) | 7.1515 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | \$1.3241/0.7552 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 236.60 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.5322 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,019.68 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2843 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.1684 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 31.95 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 43.85 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.16 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2487 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,019.68 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.9138 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 31.95 |
| Turkey (New Lira) | 2,175.90 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the United Kingdom, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| 3-month bill | 0.09 |
| 3-month bond | 0.03 |
| 30-year bond | 3.16 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Monday's US temperatures

| City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | City | Hi | Lo | Wthr |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|-----|----|-------|------------------|----|----|-------|----------------|-----|----|-------|
| Ablene, Tex | 88 | 73 | Cir | Chatanooga | 90 | 67 | Cldy | Fort Wayne | 88 | 70 | PCldy | Louisville | 92 | 73 | PCldy |
| Akron, Ohio | 85 | 66 | Cir | Chicago | 76 | 53 | Cldy | Fresno | 96 | 65 | Cir | Lubbock | 95 | 71 | PCldy |
| Albuquerque, N.M. | 85 | 64 | PCldy | Cincinnati | 89 | 71 | PCldy | Goodland | 89 | 60 | PCldy | Macon | 91 | 67 | PCldy |
| Albany, N.Y. | 85 | 64 | PCldy | Cleveland | 86 | 68 | Cir | Grand Rapids | 89 | 71 | Cldy | Madison | 90 | 70 | Cldy |
| Allentown, Pa. | 84 | 57 | Cir | Colorado Springs | 84 | 55 | Cir | Great Falls | 85 | 66 | PCldy | Memphis | 96 | 77 | PCldy |
| Anchorage | 57 | 50 | Rain | Columbia, S.C. | 87 | 65 | Cir | Green Bay | 88 | 66 | Cir | Miami Beach | 87 | 61 | Cir |
| Asheville | 79 | 58 | Cldy | Columbus, Ga. | 90 | 71 | PCldy | Greensboro, N.C. | 82 | 60 | Cir | Midland-Odessa | 78 | 72 | PCldy |
| Atlanta | 85 | 68 | Cir | Concord, N.H. | 87 | 62 | Cir | Hartford | 84 | 63 | Cir | Milwaukee | 85 | 71 | Cldy |
| Atlantic City | 82 | 59 | Cir | Corpus Christi | 88 | 75 | Cir | Helena | 70 | 47 | PCldy | Minneapolis | 81 | 60 | Cir |
| Austin | 89 | 64 | Cir | Dallas-Ft. Worth | 101 | 78 | Cir | Honolulu | 88 | 76 | Cir | Mobile | 88 | 70 | Cir |
| Baltimore | 81 | 60 | Cir | Dayton | 87 | 69 | PCldy | Houston | 99 | 77 | PCldy | Montgomery | 92 | 69 | Cir |
| Baton Rouge | 93 | 76 | Rain | Daytona Beach | 88 | 76 | Cir | Huntsville | 90 | 67 | Cir | Nashville | 92 | 71 | PCldy |
| Bilings | 87 | 51 | Cir | Denver | 80 | 57 | Cir | Indianapolis | 89 | 72 | PCldy | New Orleans | 83 | 78 | Rain |
| Birmingham | 89 | 69 | Cir | Des Moines | 90 | 71 | PCldy | Jackson, Miss. | 93 | 72 | Cir | New York City | 84 | 67 | Cir |
| Bismarck | 63 | 43 | Cldy | Detroit | 87 | 70 | Cir | Jacksonville | 87 | 75 | Rain | Newark | 86 | 65 | PCldy |
| Boston | 78 | 57 | PCldy | Duluth | 72 | 53 | Cir | Juneau | 61 | 52 | Rain | Norfolk, Va. | 80 | 68 | PCldy |
| Boston | 84 | 65 | Cir | El Paso | 92 | 72 | Cir | Kansas City | 97 | 74 | Cir | North Platte | 83 | 69 | Cir |
| Bridgeport | 86 | 64 | Cir | Elkins | 80 | 55 | Cir | Key West | 82 | 62 | PCldy | Oklahoma City | 100 | 72 | Cir |
| Brownsville | 98 | 78 | PCldy | Erie | 82 | 67 | Cir | Knoxville | 88 | 65 | Cir | Omaha | 89 | 68 | PCldy |
| Buffalo | 84 | 64 | Cir | Eugene | 89 | 54 | Cir | Lake Charles | 95 | 76 | Cir | Orlando | 92 | 75 | Cir |
| Burlington, Vt. | 85 | 64 | Cir | Evansville | 93 | 73 | PCldy | Lansing | 90 | 71 | Cldy | Pasadena | 95 | 74 | PCldy |
| Caribou, Maine | 85 | 60 | Cir | Fairbanks | 64 | 48 | Cir | Las Vegas | 97 | 77 | Cir | Pendleton | 81 | 56 | PCldy |
| Charleston, S.C. | 73 | 49 | Cldy | Fargo | 69 | 50 | PCldy | Lexington | 91 | 69 | PCldy | Penn. State | 93 | 73 | PCldy |
| Charleston, S.C. | 87 | 69 | PCldy | Flagstaff | 71 | 51 | PCldy | Lincoln | 90 | 67 | PCldy | Philadelphia | 84 | 63 | Cir |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 88 | 61 | Cir | Flint | 88 | 69 | Cir | Little Rock | 98 | 76 | Cir | Phoenix | 101 | 80 | Cir |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 81 | 64 | PCldy | Fort Smith | 99 | 76 | Cir | Los Angeles | 78 | 65 | PCldy | Pittsburgh | 84 | 61 | Cir |

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sat., 110, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Sat., 29, Bodie State Park, Calif.

Stripes

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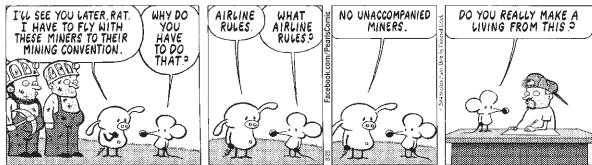
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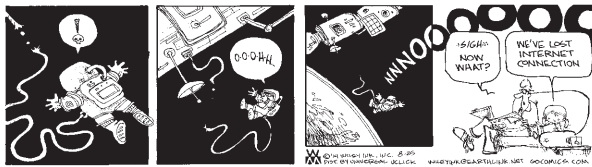
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Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



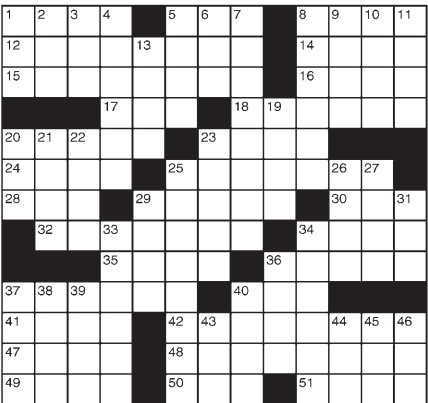
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Choir member
- 5 Winter ailment
- 8 Urban fleet
- 12 Check
- 14 Leave out
- 15 Hostages
- 16 Gauch's weapon
- 17 First lady?
- 18 Sidewalk salesperson
- 20 Mall component
- 23 Hardy cabbage
- 24 Cronies
- 25 Skilled
- 28 Everybody
- 29 Highly excited
- 30 Biblical verb suffix
- 32 Massachusetts resort site
- 34 King of Siam's employee
- 35 Luxurious fabric
- 36 Retract a comment
- 37 Arm bones
- 40 Table scrap
- 41 Birthright barterer
- 42 Turned upside-down
- 47 Tear asunder
- 48 Phone number prefix
- 49 Sandwich cookie
- 50 Started
- 51 In due time

DOWN

- 1 Joan of —
- 2 Meadow
- 3 Recipe meas.
- 4 Playful water critters
- 5 Top choice, for short
- 6 Whopper
- 7 Imperfect in form
- 8 Haunted house decor?
- 9 Uncontrolled
- 10 Ill will
- 11 Celebrity
- 13 Split open
- 19 Winged
- 20 Hot tub
- 21 Body powder
- 22 Earthenware pot
- 23 Insulation material
- 25 Forming a repeating series
- 26 Camera part
- 27 Sicilian spouter
- 29 Estate recipient
- 31 Dinner for Dobbin
- 33 Phony
- 34 Shenanigans
- 36 Bear in the air
- 37 Villain's foe
- 38 Addict
- 39 Lion's pride?
- 40 Newspaper pg.
- 43 Exist
- 44 Menagerie
- 45 Tokyo's old name
- 46 Lair

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-25

CRYPTOQUIP

X J J D O X K K V X Y S Y H P O G
R D H P, Q X K H K O M G O R V F O
J D X J J D O S N K O R J R M O Q N F O K

P N K J J D O C Y H H F G N C C H K ?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: THAT GNYCEE IN THE METAL MILL KEEPS STARING AT PEOPLE UNNERVINGLY. IT'S A VERY STEELY LOOK.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

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Pro football

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|---|---|------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| New England | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 78 |
| N.Y. Jets | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 62 |
| Miami | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 50 |
| Buffalo | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 63 |

| NFC | | | | | |
|--------------|------|---|---|------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Houston | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 50 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 68 |
| Jacksonville | 1 | 2 | 1 | .333 | 47 |
| Indianapolis | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 53 |

| AFC | | | | | |
|------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Baltimore | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 83 |
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 0 | 1 | .667 | 56 |
| Cincinnati | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 40 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 49 |

| NFC | | | | | |
|---------------|------|---|---|------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Denver | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 72 |
| San Diego | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 66 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 69 |
| Oakland | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 67 |

| AFC | | | | | |
|--------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| N.Y. Giants | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 80 |
| Washington | 2 | 0 | 1 | .667 | 64 |
| Philadelphia | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 94 |
| Dallas | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 59 |

| NFC | | | | | |
|-------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| New Orleans | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 80 |
| Carolina | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 66 |
| Tampa Bay | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 51 |

| AFC | | | | | |
|--------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Minnesota | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 70 |
| Chicago | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 81 |
| Green Bay | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 82 |
| Indianapolis | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 68 |

| NFC | | | | | |
|---------------|------|---|---|------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Seattle | 2 | 0 | 1 | .667 | 91 |
| Arizona | 1 | 1 | 1 | .500 | 60 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Diego | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 57 |

| AFC | | | | | |
|---------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 81 |
| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

| AFC | | | | | |
|---------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 81 |
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| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 81 |
| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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|---------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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|---------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
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| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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|---------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 81 |
| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 |

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|---------------|------|---|---|-------|----|
| East | West | L | T | Pct | PF |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1.000 | 81 |
| San Francisco | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 71 |
| San Diego | 1 | | | | |

SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB

Chicago to play for Little League title

The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — After Joshua Houston allowed a two-run home run in the top of the fifth that cost his team the lead, he was face down near the mound and pounded his fist into the turf.

"After that home run, I got scared. Very scared," he said.

But he recovered to escape further damage and then drove in the tying run with a line single in the bottom half of the inning to push Chicago's Jackie Robinson West past Las Vegas Mountain Ridge 7-5 in the U.S. final on Saturday and into the Little League World Series title game.

"I thought we were just going to give them the lead," he said of his feelings after Brad Stone's two-run shot had put Las Vegas ahead 5-4. "But I thought at some point we were going to get something going."

Two walks and Houston's rocket-off the glove of the second baseman in the bottom half tied it. A fielder's choice and an error made it 7-5.

Ed Howard then came on in relief of Houston, getting a 1-6-3 double play to end the game and send the Chicago team up against South Korea, which was seeking its third World Series title in Sunday's championship game.

The Chicago team is the first member of the Urban Initiative — formed in 1999 to help local Little League programs in low-income urban neighborhoods — to make it to the LLWS since Harlem did it in 2002.

Lynx eliminates Stars in Hammon's WNBA exit

SAN ANTONIO — Lindsay Whalen scored 31 points, and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Stars 94-89 on Saturday night to advance to the Western Conference finals and end the playing career of San Antonio's Becky Hammon.

Seimone Augustus scored 21 points and Maya Moore had 16 for Minnesota, which won the series 2-0 and will face the winner between Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Hammon, who is retiring after 16 seasons in the WNBA, had 12 points and four assists in her final game. She will become the first woman to serve as a full-time NBA assistant coach, joining the San Antonio Spurs.

Fever 81 Mystics 76 (OT): Tammy Sutton-Brown had 26 points and 11 rebounds as visiting Indiana beat Washington to sweep the best-of-three series and advance to the Eastern Conference finals.

Catchings' three-pointer with 1:34 remaining in overtime put Indiana ahead for good, 75-74. The Fever will face Atlanta or Chicago in the conference finals.

Henry, Wright-Phillips lead Red Bulls to win

HARRISON, N.J. — Thierry Henry and Bradley Wright-Phillips each scored two second-half goals and the New York Red Bulls to a 4-2 win over the Mon-

terial Impact on Saturday. Wright-Phillips has a MLS-leading 20 goals on the season, breaking Juan Pablo Angel's club record of 19.

Revolution 1, Chivas USA 0: Lee Nguyen scored and New England goalkeeper Bobby Shuttleworth got his sixth shutout of the season to help host New England beat Chivas USA.

Crew 3, Dynamo 0: Justin Meram had a goal and an assist to lead host Columbus over Houston.

United 3, Sporting KC 0: D.C. United shocked host Sporting Kansas City with three first-half goals in an eight-minute span for a victory in a matchup of the top teams in the MLS Eastern Conference.

Galaxy 2, Whitecaps 0: Landon Donovan and Marcelo Sarvas scored to give host Los Angeles a victory over Vancouver.

Toronto FC 2, Fire 2: Toronto FC settled for a 2-2 draw with visiting Chicago. Gilberto gave Toronto a 2-1 lead in the 78th minute, but the home side was unable to hold on as Quincy Amarikwa tied it at 2-2 in the 90th minute.

Rattlers capture third straight ArenaBow! title

CLEVELAND — Nick Davila threw for 237 yards and eight touchdowns and the Arizona Rattlers won their third consecutive ArenaBow! title with a 72-32 victory over the Cleveland Gladiators on Saturday.

The Rattlers are the second team in Arena Football League history to win three straight titles. It was also the Rattlers' fifth overall championship, tying them with the Tampa Bay Storm for the most in league history.

Dunlap leads Champions Boeing Classic by 1

SNOQUALMIE, Wash. — Scott Dunlap leads the Boeing Classic after his second-round 9-under 63 Saturday. Dunlap, in his first full season on the Champions Tour, birdied five of his final seven holes for a two-day 12-under 132 at the TPC Snoqualmie Ridge course.

He heads by one stroke over Doug Garwood, who shot a 6-under 66 for a two-round 11-under 133.

LPGA Tour: Azahara Munoz shot a 9-under 63 to move into a tie for second place at the Canadian Women's Open in London, Ontario.

Beamer picks Brewer as Hokies' starting QB

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Texas Tech transfer Michael Brewer has won the starting quarterback job for Virginia Tech. Hokies coach Frank Beamer made the announcement Saturday, choosing Brewer over senior Mike Leak.

Brewer, from Lake Travis, Texas, enrolled at Virginia Tech in the summer with two years of eligibility remaining after graduating from Texas Tech with a degree in personal financial planning. Because he graduated, he was immediately eligible to play.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez and New York Mets starting pitcher Jacob deGrom watch Gonzalez's three-run home run in the fifth inning on Saturday in Los Angeles. Gonzalez had a season-high five RBIs as the Dodgers won 7-4 and increased its NL West lead to 4½ games.

Roundup

Gonzalez gets season-high 5 RBIs as Dodgers top Mets

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Adrian Gonzalez tied a season best with five RBIs, including a go-ahead, three-run homer, and the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the New York Mets 7-4 Saturday night.

The Dodgers beat the Mets for the 13th time in 15 meetings and increased their NL West lead over San Francisco to 4½ games.

Zack Greinke (13-8) allowed four runs — three earned — and nine hits in seven innings, throwing 105 pitches on seven days' rest. He struck out four after he was pushed back two days because of elbow discomfort.

The 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner allowed two homers for the third time this season, a three-run shot by Juan Lagares and Lucas Duda's 24th of the year.

Kenley Jansen pitched a scoreless ninth for his 37th save.

Jacob deGrom (6-6) gave up five runs and five hits over six innings and struck out seven after getting reinstated from the disabled list. The rookie right-hander, who was sidelined with rotator cuff tendinitis, threw 86 pitches and also had two hits in his first start Aug. 7.

Gonzalez, who leads the Dodgers with 87 RBIs, gave them a 5-3 lead in the fifth with his 18th homer after Greinke singled and deGrom walked Carl Crawford with two outs. The Dodgers hit three homers against deGrom in a 4-3 road win on May 21, but he

has yielded just two in 75 1-3 innings over his last 12 outings.

Lagares opened the scoring in the fourth with his third home run after Duda singled and Travis d'Arnaud reached on a fielding error by third baseman Miguel Rojas. Gonzalez got one of the runs back in the bottom half with an RBI single and added a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Nationals 6, Giants 2: Jordan Zimmermann (9-5) pitched eight solid innings and Asdrubal Cabrera hit a home run as visiting Washington once again beat Tim Lincecum in a win over San Francisco.

Royals 6, Rangers 3: Jeremy Guthrie (10-10) gave up a home run on his first pitch and not much else, leading visiting Kansas City past Texas for its 24th win in 30 games.

Cubs 7, Orioles 2: Chris Coghlan finally solved Bud Norris with a bases-loaded triple, leading host Chicago over Baltimore.

Mariners 7, Red Sox 3: Dustin Ackley's three-run homer capped a seven-run fourth inning that carried visiting Seattle over Boston, sending the Red Sox to their seventh straight loss.

Twins 12-6, Tigers 4-8: Justin Verlander labored into the sixth inning and Nick Castellanos had two RBIs as visiting Detroit salvaged a doubleheader split by beating Minnesota.

In the opener, Twins rookie Kennys Vargas drove in five runs and starter Yohan Pino (2-5)

struck out six in five innings. Joe Mauer had three RBIs.

Yankees 5, White Sox 3: Carlos Beltran gave New York's struggling offense a jolt with a home run in his return to the lineup and Martin Prado had another go-ahead hit in a win over visiting Chicago.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 4 (10): Jose Reyes singled home the winning run with two outs in the 10th inning as host Toronto beat Tampa Bay in a game the Rays played under protest, claiming umpires granted Toronto a replay challenge after the next play began.

Pirates 10, Brewers 2: Pedro Alvarez homered twice to break out of a 5-for-34 slump in Pittsburgh's victory over host Milwaukee.

Indians 3, Astros 2: Jose Ramirez's ninth-inning single lifted host Cleveland over Houston, its eighth victory in 12 games and 10th walkoff win this year.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 2: Didi Gregorius hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning after host Arizona blew the lead in the top half to beat San Diego.

Reds 1, Braves 0: Mike Leake pitched into the seventh inning and boosted Cincinnati's struggling offense by hitting a double and scoring the only run in a win over visiting Atlanta.

Rockies 5, Marlins 4 (13): Corey Dickerson's single to right in the 13th inning scored Nolan Arenado to lift host Colorado over Miami.

Subs 7, Orioles 2

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Repesch L4-8 | 6 1/2 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 2 | C.Jimenez | 1/2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Tazawa | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 198; Cueto, Cincinnati, 191; Kershaw, Los Angeles, 184; Bumgarner, San Francisco |
| Claudio | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Choate pitched to 3 batters in the 8th. | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | Badenhop | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 179; Greinke, Los Angeles, 174. |
| Mendez | 3/4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | HBP—by Choate (Howard), by S.Freeman | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | | HBP—by Furbush (D.Ortiz), by A.Wilson | | | | | | | | |

MLB

Carpenter, Cards beat Phillies in 12

By AARON BRACY
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Cardinals were glad they pulled this one out, eventually.

Matt Carpenter hit a sacrifice fly in the 12th inning, lifting St. Louis over the Philadelphia Phillies 6-5 on Saturday night.

Johnny Peralta homered for the Cardinals, who have won eight of 10 and closed within a half-game of NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

"It would have been a tough one to lose," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "It was one of those tough ones to swallow. But the guys fought hard and kept coming."

Ryan Howard homered and Marlon Byrd and Carlos Ruiz each drove in a pair of runs for the Phillies.

Pinch-hitter Daniel Descalso drew a leadoff walk in the 12th from Ken Giles (2-1). Descalso went to second on Jon Jay's sacrifice bunt and moved to third on Peter Bourjos' infield single. Carpenter then fled out to deep left.

Seth Maness (5-2) pitched two scoreless innings and Trevor Rosenthal earned his 38th save in 43 chances.

"The bullpen did a nice job holding us where we were after it got tied up," Matheny said.

The teams combined to use 14 pitchers in a game that took 4 hours, 53 minutes.

The Phillies tied it at 5 in the eighth on Byrd's two-run single

off Pat Neshek, who relieved Randy Choate after the bases were loaded with no outs.

Cardinals starter Shelby Miller was in line for the win after going six innings and allowing three runs and five hits.

"Overall I felt strong," Miller said. "I thought I did a good job getting ahead of the hitters."

A pair of Phillies errors helped the Cardinals break a 2-all tie and go in front in the sixth with three runs off reliever Mario Hollands.

"Not a good defensive inning for us," Phillies manager Ryne Sandberg said.

After A.J. Pierzynski led off with a double, Oscar Taveras hit a sinking line to left. Dominic Brown appeared to pull up on a catchable ball and Pierzynski took off for third when Brown hesitated to throw back to the infield. Brown then threw the ball away, allowing Pierzynski to score.

"Once the ball was caught I think he was focused on the ball and wasn't aware where the base-runners were," Sandberg said.

David Buchanan got his first no-decision in his 14th start, giving up two runs and eight hits in five innings. The right-hander is filling in for Cliff Lee, who is out for the season with an elbow injury.

Buchanan was upset he was lifted so soon.

"That caught me off-guard, honestly," he said. "I didn't expect that. I wasn't too happy about it. But I can't control that."



BEN MARGOT/AP

Angels catcher Chris Iannetta, right, and the Athletics' Josh Donaldson, second from left, look to home plate umpire Chad Fairchild for the call in the sixth inning of Saturday's game in Oakland, Calif. After review, Donaldson was ruled out on the play, but the A's won 2-1.

Wild pitch paves way for A's to grab victory over Angels

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics are hardly relishing being back in a first-place tie with the rival Los Angeles Angels.

Both clubs know this division race is far from over, with five meetings remaining before August ends and another three in late September. And with a margin of error so slim, one miscue might be the difference.

Coco Crisp scored the go-ahead run in Joe Smith's wild pitch with two outs in the eighth inning, and the A's beat the Angels 2-1 on Saturday night to move into a share of the lead atop the AL West.

"We can't get caught up in the standings or the playoff picture," closer Sean Doolittle said.

Luke Gregerson (3-2) pitched a perfect eighth, and Doolittle finished for his 20th save. The closer felt something in his right side nearer to his back, but was able to go through some twisting exercises and other postgame tests with no problem. He doesn't consider it serious.

The division co-leaders (76-52) have the most wins in baseball. The Angels lost their fifth straight game this season at the Oakland Coliseum.

Smith (5-2) threw wildly to pinch-hitter Brandon Moss moments after plunking Derek Norris.

On Monday in Boston, the Angels moved into sole possession of the division's top spot for the first time since May 15, 2011. Losing the first two games of this series has things all tied up again.

Jon Lester and C.J. Wilson had a nice pitchers' duel but with no decisions in a tie game.

Lester struck out seven in seven innings, including Mike Trout three times as the slugger's five-game home run streak at the Coliseum was snapped.

Lester bounced back from his first defeat in nearly 2½ months and first since joining the A's from Boston at the trade deadline. The lefty threw a combined 18 pitches

in the fifth and sixth innings, 14 for strikes. He then allowed three straight hits in the seventh, including a double by Howie Kendrick and Erick Aybar's RBI single that made it 1-1.

The A's have struck out Trout three or more times in one game six times for his career, most by any team.

"Maybe we were able to get him off his game a little bit, get him frustrated and to swing at bad pitches," Lester said.

Lester was helped by a nice play from left fielder Craig Gentry in the seventh. David Freese hit a leadoff single off the wall and headed toward second as Gentry quickly retrieved the ball and threw him out.

Wilson allowed one run on five hits, struck out three and walked three in 6½ innings.

"The A's do a lot of things well. They pitch well and they have a good bullpen. It was another close game and we didn't get a couple of things done," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We have to keep moving forward."

Scioscia challenged in the third that Albert Pujols beat out an infield hit rather than recording the third out. The call was overturned in 2 minutes, 4 seconds, and ruled a single.

In the sixth, umpires went to review again on a challenge by A's manager Bob Melvin. He believed Josh Donaldson, who held up briefly at second, was safe at home on a headfirst slide in which he reached to touch the plate with his left hand as catcher Chris Iannetta tried to tag him. The ruling stood after 3:40.

The crew chief then reviewed Sam Puld's caught stealing in the seventh, per Melvin's request. The ruling was confirmed in 1:05.

Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 24

Athletics 2, Angels 1

| Los Angeles | ab | r | h | bi | Oakland | ab | r | h | bi |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|-------------|----|---|---|----|
| Cowgill Jr. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Crisp cf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Jethro ph-rf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Gentry lf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Trout cf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | DeJong dh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pujols 1b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | DNorris c | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Jethro lf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | McMann dh | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Freese dh | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Moss ph-dh | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kendrick 2b | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Freese 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Aybar ss | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Vogt 1b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Howett c | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Calderon 2b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GBKch 3b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Fuldr 3b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | Parrino ss | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Jason ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Sopard ss | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Los Angeles

| Los Angeles | ab | r | h | bi | Oakland | ab | r | h | bi |
|--|----|---|---|----|-----------|----|---|---|----|
| Gregerson W-3-2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Freese 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Doolittle 5-0-2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | McMann dh | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HPB—by C. Wilson (Parrino), by J. Smith (D. Norris), WP—J. Smith, Lester, T.—3:00, A.—36,067 (35,067). | | | | | | | | | |

| Los Angeles | IP | H | R | BB | SO |
|----------------|-------|---|---|----|----|
| C. Wilson | 6 1/3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Johnson | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| J. Smith L-5-2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

| Oakland | IP | H | R | BB | SO |
|--|----|---|---|----|----|
| Gregerson W-3-2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Doolittle 5-0-2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HPB—by C. Wilson (Parrino), by J. Smith (D. Norris), WP—J. Smith, Lester, T.—3:00, A.—36,067 (35,067). | | | | | |

Indians 3, Astros 2

| Houston | ab | r | h | bi | Cleveland | ab | r | h | bi |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|--------------|----|---|---|----|
| Grassmfr | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Bourn cf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Altuve 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | Ramirez ss | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Carier dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Brantley lf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Fowler cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Santana 1b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| J. Castro c | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Kipnis 3b | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Guzman 1b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Walters dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moscoso 2b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Altuve ph | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mrsnick rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Adkins ph | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| G. Pettit 3b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Dickerson rf | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | | Holt ph | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | | Perce c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Totals | 29 | 2 | 3 | 1 | Totals | 33 | 3 | 10 | 3 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Houston | 002 | 000 | 000 | —2 | Cleveland | 001 | 100 | 000 | —3 |
| One out when winning run scored. | | | | | | | | | |
| E.—Altuve (8), Ch. Dickerson (2), DP—Cleveland 1, 106—Houston 3, Cleveland 10, 2B—J. Ramirez (2), SB—Kipnis (19), S.—R. Perez (2). | | | | | | | | | |

| Houston | IP | H | R | BB | SO |
|-------------------|-------|---|---|----|----|
| McHugh | 5 1/3 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| K. Chapman | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Veras | 1 1/3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sipp | 1 1/3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| J. Buchanan L-1-3 | 1 1/3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| Cleveland | IP | H | R | BB | SO |
|--|----|---|---|----|----|
| Salvator | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Atchison | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Shaw | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Allen W-3-1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| WP—by Buchanan, T.—3:18, A.—20,785 (42,487). | | | | | |

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AUTO RACING

Sprint Cup Series

Logano outduels Kenseth at Bristol

By HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Joey Logano is looking more and more like a Sprint Cup title contender.

Logano surged past Matt Kenseth with 44 laps to go and won for the first time in his career at Bristol Motor Speedway on Saturday night, foiling the 2003 series champion's gambling attempt to secure a spot in NASCAR's playoffs.

Logano, just 24, became the fifth driver this season to win three times, joining the Hendrick Motorsports trio of Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson and Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Penske Racing teammate Brad Keselowski, who finished second.

Is there a message in that heading into the chase for the championship in two weeks?

"That we can win the thing," Logano said.

Logano had never won more than one race in a season before this year, and has doubled his career victory total. He also added a cherished notch by winning at Bristol, which bills itself as the world's fastest half-mile.

"I feel like the Bristol night race is maybe the third or fourth biggest race of the year," he said. "Just the atmosphere before the race, if it doesn't pump you up, nothing does. It's just the baddest mamma jamma race track ever built."

He gained the top spot when Kenseth elected to stay on the track when most of the field pitted after a caution flag with 67 laps to go, picking track position and fresh air over new tires. It seemed like a strategy that could work, especially if he could stay in the high groove that gave drivers decidedly more speed off the corners all weekend on the 0.533-



Race for the Chase

Point standings after the NASCAR Sprint Cup Irwin Tools Night Race at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn. The top 16 drivers qualify for the Race for the Chase.

| No. Driver | Points |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1. Jeff Gordon..... | 845 |
| 2. Dale Earnhardt Jr..... | 818 |
| 3. Brad Keselowski..... | 776 |
| 4. Joey Logano..... | 761 |
| 5. Matt Kenseth..... | 751 |
| 6. Jimmie Johnson..... | 721 |
| 7. Kevin Harvick..... | 716 |
| 8. Carl Edwards..... | 716 |
| 9. Ryan Newman..... | 710 |
| 10. Clint Bowyer..... | 699 |
| 11. Greg Biffle..... | 694 |
| 12. Kyle Larson..... | 668 |
| 13. Kasey Kahne..... | 661 |
| 14. Austin Dillon..... | 654 |
| 15. Paul Menard..... | 649 |
| 16. Jamie McMurray..... | 634 |
| 17. Kyle Busch..... | 629 |
| 18. Marcos Ambrose..... | 626 |
| 19. Brian Vickers..... | 621 |
| 20. Denny Hamlin..... | 594 |

mile oval.

But the Penske Racing teammates quickly proved it faulty.

"I just knew that clean air was going to be worth more than new tires," Kenseth said of his decision after finishing third. He said he also felt his car wasn't as strong as he liked on fresh tires, and first Logano and then Keselowski foiled his plan.

"They cleared everybody way too fast," Kenseth said.

He still remains in great posi-



WADE PAYNE/AP

Matt Kenseth, left, and Joey Logano, right, battle for the lead as Brad Keselowski trails during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race on Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn.

tion to make the playoffs, standing fifth in the points race and first among non-winners. His lead is now 122 points over 17th place Kyle Busch, who has only two races left to overtake him before the field is set.

Keselowski never made a serious bid to overtake Logano, though he did pull up to his bumper on the last lap.

"When I'd get right behind him, I'd get in the dirty air and it just pushed too much be able to do anything," he said. "The last lap I just dive-bombed it in there on a prayer and kind of hoping it would stick or he would slip of something would happen for me, and made it look cool. But it really wasn't that close."

It did, however, give Penske a sweep of the weekend, its first since 2006. Ryan Blaney won the Nationwide race on Friday night, and along with the 1-2 finish, Will Power won the pole in Sonoma in IndyCar on Saturday.

Keselowski also won the truck race Thursday, giving Ford its first sweep of NASCAR's top three series since 2006.

Jimmie Johnson, slowed early by two pit road speeding penalties, rallied to finish fourth, his best result since mid-June at



WADE PAYNE/AP

Joey Logano hoists the winner's trophy with Jerry Caldwell, General Manager of Bristol Motor Speedway, after taking the Sprint Cup Series race in Bristol, Tenn., on Saturday.

Michigan, and Kurt Busch was fifth, rallying on a call by crew chief Daniel Knost with 130 to go after almost being lapped.

Gordon remained the points leader despite a 16th-place run. He's 27 clear of Earnhardt and 42

ahead of Keselowski.

With 100 to go, it looked possible the series might get a 13th winner of the year.

Jamie McMurray, who led a race-best 148 laps, was leading, followed by Kenseth, and Ryan Newman was ninth. As the final laps clicked off, though, McMurray faded to eighth and Newman, once as high as seventh, dropped to 13th.

Kahne, another driver desperate for a victory or a surge in the point standings, led the race for 40 laps, almost to the halfway point. He then pitted under green with a loose wheel and went two laps down. He wound up 35th.

It was another rough night for Aric Almirola, who has had six of those in a row since his first career victory at Daytona made him one of the unluckiest drivers to secure a spot in the upcoming Chase. Almirola, who started 42nd after crashing in qualifying, completed just 37 laps before crashing.

"What an amazing race car these guys brought me — two of them and to go out like that is certainly disappointing. But that's racing at Bristol," he said. "You get caught up in other people's wrecks."

Ricciardo wins Belgian Grand Prix; Rosberg extends points lead



YVES LOGOENE/AP

Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo races past his team after he won the Belgian Grand Prix in Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium, on Sunday.

By JEROME PUGMIRE
The Associated Press

SPA, Belgium — Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo won an incident-packed Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday, while Nico Rosberg was second to extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton in acrimonious circumstances.

Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas was third. The increasingly strained relations at Mercedes look set to get even worse after Rosberg effectively ended Hamilton's race chances with a risky overtaking move that saw him clip and puncture the Briton's left tire.

Rosberg, who finished 3.3 seconds behind Ricciardo, was jeered by the Spa crowd when he stepped on to the podium.

"It's not my position to comment on it at all because I haven't seen it," Rosberg said of the incident. "Of course it's very disappointing from a team's perspective. We could have done a lot better than just finish in second place with the car we have."

Hamilton retired with five laps remaining after

his team noticed some further degradation and he appeared to blame Rosberg after the race.

"I'm sure he'll leave here happy," Hamilton told the BBC.

Mercedes executive director Toto Wolff called the situation "absolutely unacceptable" and blamed Rosberg.

"You don't try to overtake with the knife between your teeth in lap number two and damage both cars," he told BBC sport. "Lewis is very upset. We kept him out there for a long time with a damaged car. He will recover quickly. It is going to be handled."

Rosberg looked visibly uncomfortable in the post-race news conference when asked to respond to Wolff's comments.

"I respect their opinion," Rosberg said. "The inside was blocked and I gave it a go on the outside."

It was a second straight win for Ricciardo after victory at the Hungarian GP last month and the third of an impressive season. The Australian continues to outshine his Red Bull teammate Sebastian Vettel, who finished fifth behind Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.

NFL BRIEFS

Rams think Bradford's injured knee is OK

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — St. Louis quarterback Sam Bradford reinjured the left knee he had surgery on last season and the Rams had four other starters hurt in a 33-14 win over the Cleveland Browns on Saturday night.

Bradford went down after being hit by Browns defensive lineman Armoty Bryant in the first quarter. He grimaced in pain before walking gingerly to the sideline with Rams coach Jeff Fisher watching every delicate step.

Bradford was examined on the bench and then escorted to the locker room for further medical tests. He did not return.

Rams coach Jeff Fisher thought Bradford hyperextended his knee, but he will wait for more tests on Sunday.

The Rams only said Bradford "hurt" his knee. They'd better hope it's nothing more serious.

The former No. 1 overall draft pick missed nine games last season after tearing his left anterior cruciate ligament and having surgery, and St. Louis was counting on Bradford to bounce back and have a big year.

Bradford's injury wasn't the only one sustained on a rough night for the Rams. The most serious appeared to be to cornerback Trumaine Johnson, who was carted off with a towel draped over his head in the second quarter. Johnson and tackle Michael Brockers were injured on the same play, but Brockers walked off under his own power.

Earlier, defensive tackle Kendall Langford and offensive guard Rodger Saffold sustained ankle injuries.

The Rams have their fingers crossed for good news on Bradford, who has made 49 career starts for St. Louis. Fisher took a cautious approach with the 26-year-old in training camp and delayed his exhibition debut until last week against Green Bay. Bradford played well, completing 9 of 12 passes for 101 yards, and Fisher had hoped to give him more time against the Browns.

But he didn't get past the Rams' opening possession. After driving St. Louis to the Cleveland 12, Bradford dropped back and was hit high by Bryant as he threw an incomplete. Bryant didn't wrap his arms around Bradford, who turned and fell.

Broncos' Welker leaves game with concussion

DENVER — Broncos receiver Wes Welker suffered a concussion after taking a hit to the head from Houston defensive back D.J. Swearinger in a preseason game Saturday night.

Welker was released by Swearinger soon after catching a short pass over the middle with just seconds remaining in the second quarter. Swearinger drew an unnecessary roughness penalty for the hit on Welker, who has a history of concussions and wears a bigger helmet.

Denver coach John Fox said

Welker won't return to the field until he goes through the league's concussion protocol.

"The biggest thing on him is, of course, player safety," Fox said.

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning was livid with Swearinger and gave him an earful after throwing a 29-yard TD pass to Emmanuel Sanders just before halftime. Manning ran down the field and muttered something to Swearinger, which earned the QB a taunting penalty.

Asked to elaborate on his conversation, Manning said, "I can't."

Swearinger wouldn't expand on their dialogue, either.

"I won't put that in a headline. That is a Hall of Fame quarterback. I respect him," Swearinger

said. "There are some fine lines with hits. I could have tried to go low, but he ducked his head. I went with his shoulder. What am I supposed to do?"

Welker had 73 catches for 778 yards and 10 TDs last season. He missed the final 3½ games after sustaining his second concussion in a three-week span.

"I'm obviously concerned about Wes and never like to see him come out of the game with a potential blow to the head," Manning said.

Report: Broncos' Prater faces 4-game ban

DENVER — Matt Prater, the NFL's best kicker, is facing a four-game suspension for violating the

league's substance abuse policy, according to the Denver Post.

The Broncos declined to comment on the report, and neither Prater nor his lawyer, Harvey Steinberg, replied to text messages from The Associated Press early Sunday morning.

The newspaper said Prater's suspension was alcohol-related. He has been in the league's substance abuse program since he was charged with DUI on Aug. 12, 2001.

Prater led the league last year by making 25 of 26 field goals (96.2 percent), including a record-breaking 64-yarder in December. He led the league with 81 kickoff touchbacks.

Prater's backup is Mitch Ewald, a rookie from Indiana. But the

Broncos might look to bring in a veteran kicker while he serves his suspension.

Bucs WR Evans admits involvement in fight

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Tampa Bay Buccaneers rookie Mike Evans says he could have handled himself better in response to a video TMZ aired of the receiver being involved in a brawl at a Miami nightclub in March.

Evans called the fight "unfortunate," and added he nearly forgot about it until the video surfaced this week.

The video shows Evans exchanging punches with nightclub bouncers.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

CONFERENCE PREVIEW: ACC

1 Enter Louisville, exit Maryland: Fast-rising Louisville is in the ACC after founding member Maryland left for the Big Ten. The Cardinals seem to have the players — and the resources — to remain competitive during their step-up in competition.

2 Prodigal Petrino: The new coach for the ACC's newest team isn't really all that new.

Bobby Petrino is back in charge at Louisville. He took a circuitous path that included a messy scandal at Arkansas to lead him back to the Cardinals.



Petrino

3 The Golden Dome: This is the first year of Notre Dame's scheduling arrangement with the ACC. The independent Irish play four games against ACC schools as part of their membership in all other sports the league sponsors. Notre Dame will play host to North Carolina and Louisville, will visit Florida State and will face Syracuse in East Rutherford, N.J.

4 QB questions: Only four schools return their full-time starting quarterbacks from 2013, and only one of those players (Duke's Anthony Boone) started a game before 2013. The QB with the most career starts? Winston, the redshirt sophomore who started all 14 games of the Seminoles' national title run.

5 Cloudy Coastal: The Coastal Division could be a crash-out. Miami was voted as the preseason favorite even though both defending champ Duke and North Carolina each received more first-place votes than the Hurricanes. "I believe anybody can win it," Tar Heels coach Larry Fedora said.



JOE RAYMOND/AP

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly, right, talks to quarterback DeShone Kizer at practice Tuesday in South Bend, Ind. It's the first year the Irish will play four ACC games while continuing to remain independent in football.



JOE BURBANK, ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

Florida State Seminoles coach Jimbo Fisher lifts the BCS trophy with quarterback Jameis Winston looking on at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 6.

League wants more respect

By JOEDY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The Atlantic Coast Conference owns a few prized possessions that once were property of the Southeastern Conference.

Among them: A national championship trophy, a Heisman Trophy, and a measure of respect.

That's mostly because of Florida State's big 2013 season, and now it's up to the ACC to keep that momentum going.

"How about that man, taking the rein from the SEC, huh?" said Heisman winner Jameis Winston of the Seminoles. "We are the national champions in this conference, and that's important to me because people do need to respect the ACC more. ... I believe that Florida State, we helped gain that respect, and hopefully we can continue that."

There's no question the Seminoles set the standard for the league after capturing the last national title of the BCS era seven months ago.

That helped change the perception of the ACC, which had won two BCS bowls from 1998-2011 before claiming three wins in the final two years of the format.



MARK CRAMMER, ANDERSON INDEPENDENT-MAIL/AP

Clemson fan Linda Cook, right, takes a photo with Clemson head football coach Dabo Swinney on Aug. 17. Swinney's Tigers are picked to finish second in the Atlantic Division.

Now the league needs another team that can challenge Florida State.

Maybe it will be Clemson, last year's Atlantic Division favorite which bounced back from a lopsided loss to the Seminoles and beat Ohio State in the Orange Bowl.

Maybe it will be Louisville, a league newcomer which won two BCS games in the old Big East.

Predicted order of finish:

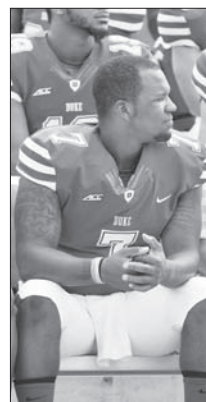
Atlantic



Coastal



Title game winner:



BERNARD THOMAS, THE HERALD-SUN/AP

Duke quarterback Anthony Boone is one of just four full-time starting quarterbacks returning for an ACC team this season. The Blue Devils are hoping to build on last year's surprising success, finishing the season No. 23 after winning the Coastal title.

6 Miami's Duke returns: Miami running back Duke Johnson says he's at 100 percent after breaking his ankle last season against Florida State. Johnson appears to be the league's top offensive player not named Jameis Winston.

7 Duke Redux? What can Duke do for an encore? The Blue Devils are coming off the best season in school history — winning 10 games, claiming the Coastal title, finishing at No. 23 in the AP Top 25 and reaching the Chick-fil-A Bowl. ACC Coach of the Year David Cutcliffe says he believes his program is getting stronger.

8 Really special teams: ACC teams combined to return 16 kickoff and punts for touchdowns last season, and North Carolina's Ryan Switzer tied an NCAA single-season record with five punt returns for scores.

9 Second time around: Both Pittsburgh and Syracuse went 7-6 and reached low-level bowl games in their debut ACC seasons. They both want to do more in Year 2. Said Pitt coach Paul Chryst: "As proud as we are to be members of the ACC, our goal and objective is to make an impact on it."

10 Big games: There are a few marquee nonconference games early in the ACC season. Florida State opens with Oklahoma State in Irving, Texas, while Clemson heads to Georgia. The following week, Virginia Tech visits Ohio State, and later, Southern California heads to Boston College and Miami travels to Nebraska.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

CONFERENCE PREVIEW: SEC

1 Changing QBs: Seven of the top eight passers from last season are gone, including Texas A&M's Manziel, Alabama's McCarron and Georgia's Aaron Murray. Only six teams have returning starters and one of those, Tennessee, carried over the competition into preseason camp. Freshmen are in the mix at Texas A&M, Kentucky and LSU and Florida State transfer Jacob Coker is the odds-on favorite to win the Crimson Tide's starting job. Plus, Auburn will start Jeremy Johnson in the opener against Arkansas after Nick Marshall's offseason citation for marijuana possession.

2 Splashy Hires: Despite the lack of head coaching turnover, Georgia and Alabama made big splashes hiring coordinators. Alabama landed former Tennessee, Southern California and Oakland Raiders head coach Lane Kiffin to run an offense that's loaded at running back and wide receiver. Georgia hired Jeremy Pruitt away from national champion Florida State to improve a defense that was middle of the pack. The Bulldogs also have replaced the other three defensive assistants.

3 Florida's Hopes: Coach Will Muschamp acknowledged at SEC media days that "there will be a lot of chatter about hot seat business" after Florida's first losing season since 1979.

Chances are there won't be a repeat of the injury-plagued 2013 season, though. And quarterback Jeff Driskel returns from a broken leg with a new offensive coordinator in Kurt Roper, who came over from Duke. The Gators could be the SEC's most likely candidate for a big turnaround at the Auburn.

4 Fresh Faces: All those early departures for the NFL gives more freshmen shots at making early contributions. LSU tailback Leonard Fournette was the nation's consensus top prospect and figures to carve a significant role in the backfield. Top quarterback prospect Kyle Allen could see time as Texas A&M's quarterback, though Kenny Hill was named the starter for the Aggies' opener. At Alabama, Cam Robinson is the front-runner to start at left tackle and Tony Brown is competing for one of the cornerback spots.

5 Early Showdowns: Opening week could give a pretty fair idea of where teams stand. Texas A&M and South Carolina get the SEC season started Thursday in what gives the SEC Network a splashy debut. They've never played each other before. Alabama opens against West Virginia two days later, when Georgia also faces Clemson. LSU plays Wisconsin and Mississippi goes against Boise State.



JASON GETZ, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT

The University of Georgia's Malcolm Mitchell entered last season as the Bulldogs top wideout, but tore up his right knee in the season opener and missed the remainder of the year.

Southern stars

New faces give fresh feel to SEC

By JOHN ZENOR

The Associated Press

The Southeastern Conference finally got knocked off the mountaintop.

Now, Alabama and other aspiring national contenders are trying to begin the climb back in a league that suddenly has a fresh feel.

Gone are marquee names like Jadeveon Clowney and Johnny Manziel and Heisman Trophy finalists AJ McCarron and Tre Mason.

Presumed top contenders like Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia and LSU are breaking in new quarterbacks. Those factors — and the wild, unpredictable 2013 season — are giving other teams around the league hope.

After all, who could have predicted Missouri and Auburn's surprising runs to division titles, Florida's injury-fueled struggles or the SEC West and Iron Bowl being settled on Auburn's final-play, 109-yard return of a missed field goal?

"Auburn came back and was competing for a national championship," Florida cornerback Vernon Hargreaves III said. "You never know who's going to be the best, and that's why the SEC is the best conference in college football."

But the best team belonged to Florida State, which ended the SEC's seven-year national title streak with a 34-31 win over Auburn at the Rose Bowl.

For all the SEC's player turnover, there is stability on the sidelines. The only new coach is Vanderbilt's Derek Mason.

Still, maybe it's the year for

Predicted order of finish:

| East | West |
|------|------|
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| | |
| | |

Title game winner:



6 Davis' Time: One of the few recognizable names for the Gamecocks is running back Mike Davis.

He finished with 1,183 yards last season, the fourth best single-season mark in South Carolina history. Davis rushed for 100 yards or more in seven of the first nine games before fading down the stretch with injuries. He's gotten stronger in the offseason, knowing that another 1,000-yard year could make him the next South Carolina junior to jump into the NFL draft.



Davis

7 Volunteer Work: Tennessee wide receiver Von Pearson, who caught 93 passes for 1,601 yards last season at Feather River (California) College, has perhaps the most interesting background of the Volunteers' young crop of newcomers. The former Virginia prep star didn't go to college directly out of high school and was working at McDonald's when a friend talked him into giving football and school one more try.

That began his stunning journey from McDonald's to Feather River to the SEC.

8 Mitchell's Health: Malcolm Mitchell went into last season rated as Georgia's top receiver. But he tore up his right knee in the opener and was done for the year, had to cut short spring practice because of a problem with his left knee, then re-injured his right knee just before the start of preseason practice while doing drills. He's had four knee injuries in all, raising doubts about whether he'll ever get healthy enough to make a big contribution. The Bulldogs are still hopeful he can help the offense before his career is done.

9 Tiger Beat: The LSU offense will require major contributions from players with little or no previous regular season experience. Several of the candidates to take over starting roles are true freshmen, including Brandon Harris, who is challenging sophomore Anthony Jennings to start at quarterback. Whoever wins that job will replace current Tennessee Titans rookie Zach Mettenberger, who last season passed for more than 3,000 yards at LSU.

10 For The Record: The SEC has won seven of the last eight national championships, nine of the 16 BCS National Championships, two runner-up finishes and 23 overall national titles (AP, BCS, FWAA and coaches poll). SEC schools have appeared in 10 of the 16 BCS Championship Games, winning nine.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

LSU freshman running back Leonard Fournette was the nation's consensus top prospect and should play a significant role in the Tigers' backfield this season.

Mississippi to break through or Florida to make a dramatic rebound like Auburn did a year ago after an 0-8 SEC season. Or maybe Alabama, with three national titles in five seasons, returns to the top.

It certainly wouldn't be a big surprise for Steve Spurrier to lead South Carolina to its first SEC championship. The Gamecocks have posted three straight 11-2 records and are coming off a No. 4 final ranking.

"Nobody picked Missouri and Auburn to win the divisions last year," Spurrier said. "That's why we play the game. We don't know who's going to win 'em."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



James Winston celebrates Florida State's ACC championship game victory over Duke last December. The Seminoles are almost certain to make the playoffs with another league title.

Playoff: What you should know

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Major college football finally has a playoff. It's called the College Football Playoff.

Really. Here's how it will work and what you need to know.

Think BCS

Those involved in putting the playoff together and how the system is BCS 2.0, but to understand how it works, it helps to keep in mind how the Bowl Championship Series worked.

In the BCS, there were four, and then later five games played each season. Only one, the national championship game, had anything to do with the national championship.

The others were glitzy bowl games played in showcase stadiums that — hopefully — had compelling matchups. Six conferences had automatic bids to those games, and other teams could earn automatic entry.

The new system will have a total of seven games, including two national semifinals and a final that will determine the champion. The four other games will be glitzy bowl games played in showcase stadiums that — hopefully — will have compelling matchups. There will no longer be automatic bids for six conference champions, as was the case for the BCS. Now five conferences (the Big Ten, Big 12, SEC, ACC and Pac-12) each have guaranteed a spot for their champions in either the semifinals or one of the four glitzy bowls. There will also be a guaranteed spot for the best team from the five FBS conferences (American Athletic Conference, Mountain West, Sun Belt, Conference USA and Mid-American).

Picking the teams

A 13-member selection committee will pick the teams to play in the semifinals, and set some of the matchups in those other bowl games. The committee will also release a weekly top 25 starting Oct. 21. On Dec. 7, the matchups will be revealed.

The committee members:

- Chairman Jeff Long, athletic director, Arkansas
- Barry Alvarez, athletic director, Wisconsin
- Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, former superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy
- Pat Haden, athletic director, Southern California
- Tom Izzo, former NCAA executive vice president
- Oliver Luck, athletic director, West Virginia.
- Archie Manning, former Mississippi quarterback
- Tom Osborne, former Nebraska coach

- Dan Radakovich, athletic director, Clemson
- Condoleezza Rice, Stanford professor and former secretary of state
- Mike Tranchese, former commissioner of the Big East Conference
- Steve Wieberg, former college football reporter, USA Today
- Tyrone Willingham, former head coach of Notre Dame, Stanford and Washington

Where will the games be played?

The semifinals will rotate through six bowl games: the Rose (Pasadena, Calif.), Orange (Miami), Sugar (New Orleans), Fiesta (Glendale, Ariz.), Cotton (Arlington, Texas) and Peach (Atlanta). When those games don't host a semifinal, they will put on one of the glitzy bowls. The semifinals this season will be played in Pasadena and New Orleans.

The championship game will be bid out like the Super Bowl and move all over the country. The first one will be played at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, home of the Dallas Cowboys and the Cotton Bowl.

When?

Three games will be played back-to-back-to-back on New Year's Eve, and there will be another tripleheader on New Year's Day. Adjustments will be made in the future if Dec. 31 or Jan. 1 falls on a Sunday so as to not conflict with the NFL.

The championship game will always be played on a Monday, at least a week after the semifinals. This season the semifinals will be on Jan. 1. The Rose will kick off around 5 p.m. EST. The Sugar around 8:30 p.m. EDT. The championship game in Texas will be played the night of Jan. 12.

The Rose and Sugar bowls will always be played on New Year's Day, so in most seasons the semifinals will be played on New Year's Eve.

TV

All these games will be shown on ESPN. It reportedly paid about \$7.2 billion for the entire package.

Where does all that money go?

About 85 percent of it will go to the Big Five conferences. The other five FBS leagues will split the rest, but not feel too badly for them. Most will be making about five times the amount they made with the BCS.

How long before this system can be changed?

The conferences and ESPN worked out a 12-year deal based on a four-team playoff format. So it seems to be locked in for 12 years. But the structure is there for it to grow, so stay tuned.

KEY EARLY NONCONFERENCE GAMES

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

Sure, it's the first year of the College Football Playoff, and much of the talk at the start of the season is about which four teams will be playing at the end.

But there are plenty of important games on the schedule before the leaves turn colors that could play a role in helping the selection committee decide which teams go to the national semifinals.

Here are the best early nonconference games:



Wisconsin vs. LSU, Aug. 30

Both are traditionally strong teams in their conferences, and both have lots of questions. The Badgers need to find a quarterback, and they have to replace six of their front seven on defense. They won't see a faster opponent before bowl season. LSU sustained huge losses at the skilled positions. Even though the Tigers have rattled off back-to-back 10-win seasons and beat SEC champ Auburn by two TDs last year, there's some uneasiness in Baton Rouge. A win here could help LSU regain its mojo.



Clemson at Georgia, Aug. 30

These teams have a history of playing down-to-the-wire games against each other. With both teams breaking in new QBs, don't expect it to be as high scoring. The key matchup is Georgia's electrifying running back, Todd Gurley, against a Tigers' defensive front that might be the nation's best. No matter the outcome, it's great preparation for Georgia's SEC opener against South Carolina on Sept. 13 and Clemson's ACC opener against defending national champ Florida State on Sept. 20.



UCLA at Texas, Sept. 13

Everything is trending up in Westwood. Coach Jim Mora already has 19 wins, most ever in the first two years by a UCLA coach, and he brings back one of the country's most dangerous QBs in Brett Hundley. First-year coach Charlie Strong is trying to keep Texas fans' expectations in check, but the Longhorns might be pretty good. Yes, they have issues at QB, but the defense could keep them in a lot of games. This will be a springboard for the winner.



Miami at Nebraska, Sept. 20

For all those times Tom Osborne lamented the home-field advantage Miami held in those Orange Bowl meetings of the 1980s and '90s, the Hurricanes go to Lincoln for the first time since 1976. These teams played five games between 1984 and 2002, and four decided national titles. This meeting is important for two programs looking to re-establish themselves in the national hierarchy, but it also will appeal to fans' sense of nostalgia.



Michigan State at Oregon, Sept. 6

These opposites, no doubt, will attract a lot of eyeballs. Heisman Trophy hopeful Marcus Mariota is back to lead an Oregon offense that rolled up better than 45 points and 560 yards a game last season against a Michigan State defense that held opponents to 13 points and 250 yards. The Ducks' defense will be tested by Connor Cook, who showed he was an elite passer by throwing for more than 300 yards against both Ohio State in the Big Ten championship game and Stanford in the Rose Bowl, both victories for the Spartans.



Michigan at Notre Dame, Sept. 6

The series between two of the hallowed names in college football will go on hiatus after this season. The Wolverines upset the Irish last year, but they lost six of their last eight, and coach Brady Hoke is in dire need of a turnaround. New offensive coordinator Doug Nussmeier will be calling the plays for returning QB Devin Gardner.

For Notre Dame, QB Everett Golson is back after being suspended for the 2013 season. He led the Irish to the national championship game against Alabama the year before.

Michigan State QB Connor Cook
AL GOLDS/AP



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Coaches often say they are always on the hot seat. That might be true, but some seats are hotter than others. Last season, Southern California and Texas changed coaches and created a cascade of corresponding moves. A similar situation could play out this season, with a few coaches in high-profile positions heading into 2014 very much in need of winning records and quality victories. Six coaches entering pivotal seasons for their job security:



Will Muschamp, Florida

Muschamp had a mediocre first season (7-6), a great second season (11-2) and a terrible third season (4-8). Injuries played a big part in ruining 2013, but that offense was ugly. Kurt Roper was hired from Duke to be the coordinator. Roper plans to spread things out more, up the tempo at times, and benefit from the return of QB Jeff Driskel, who missed most of last season with a knee injury. Muschamp has plenty of talent on the defensive side. Another losing season would not be tolerated in Gainesville. The question is just how big of a turnaround does Muschamp need?



Charlie Weis, Kansas

The Jayhawks have improved in two seasons under Weis, going from one victory to three last season, including their first Big 12 win since 2010. Improved is still a long way from good. The Jayhawks are loaded with experience and should have their best team under the former Notre Dame coach. But will another small step forward be enough?



Kyle Flood, Rutgers

A record of 15-11 in two seasons with the Scarlet Knights shouldn't put a coach on the hot seat, but a nine-win season followed by a six-win season has the arrow pointed in the wrong direction. And now Rutgers moves into the Big Ten to face a brutal schedule. Add to that the fact that athletic director Julie Hermann, who has had some of her own problems since arriving at New Jersey's state university, didn't hire Flood, and it's a volatile mix. Did we mention that for Rutgers coach Greg Schiano is available? Volatile.



Brady Hoke, Michigan

While Muschamp's time at Florida has been up and down, Hoke's three-year stint with the Wolverines has been a steady decline. Eleven victories. Eight victories. Seven victories. It's one thing for the Wolverines to chasing Ohio State. But Michigan State, too? Hoke is also banking on a new offensive coordinator to fix some of his problems. He hired Doug Nussmeier, whose offenses put up big numbers at Alabama even though they weren't quite what Nick Saban was looking for. The Wolverines have a roster loaded with highly rated recruits, but short on experience. It looks like a team set to blossom next season. Hoke might not be able to wait that long.



Tim Beckman, Illinois

Like Kansas under Weis, Illinois improved from Year 1 to Year 2 under Beckman, going from two wins to four. Bringing in Bill Cubit to run the offense worked wonders last season, but the Illini still couldn't stop anyone. And February's recruiting class was ranked last in the Big Ten by Rivals. Another bowl-less winter would be a tough sell in Champaign.



Mike London, Virginia

London's had one winning season in four with Virginia, including last season's ugly 2-10 that ended with nine straight losses. Virginia decided to give London another year instead of eating a big chunk of contract. He'll add some blue chip recruits to an experienced defense, but with games against UCLA, BYU, Florida State and Louisville, a major turnaround will be difficult.

Work in progress

How will college football panel pick top 4 teams?

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Might as well call it Mission: Impossible. Starting in mid-October, a panel of 13 football experts will begin meeting once a week to determine the four teams who will compete for the national championship in the very first College Football Playoff. Their goal is to choose the four best teams in the nation at the end of the regular season.

But how does someone answer a question for which there will almost always will be more than one correct answer?

"We need both faith and reason," said committee member and West Virginia athletic director Oliver Luck. "We have to use our logical skills and the deductive skills that the people in that room have. But the college football world needs a little bit of faith that we all check our egos at the door and we go about this in a very straightforward and honest manner."

Where the College Football Playoff has the Bowl Championship Series beat is simply the number four. Twice as many teams will now enter the postseason with a chance to win the national championship. Most fans agree this is progress over an old system were deservings teams were left out.

How will the new panel decide on top teams? Will so-called great teams still be left out? As its first season unfolds, the group could create an all-new set of questions about whether the process works.

The human element: The biggest change in the process is that people—not computer rankings—are solely in charge of teams' fates. So the panel will have to learn how to effectively debate, compromise and even account for bias.

"This small number of human beings sitting across the table from each other can evaluate nuances to a much greater degree than the old system could," said Bill Hancock, the executive director of the College Football Playoff. "There can be give and take. There can be questions and answers. That element just wasn't a part of the old system."

The down side of this is with so few people, if there is bias in the room it can have a greater impact on the final decision. If someone consistently overrates the importance of offense over defense, for example, that can affect the pro-

cess more so than when the teams were chosen by more than 100 voters in Harris and coaches' polls.

"With 13 people, if somebody really has it in their head that no matter what South Carolina is not that good, if one person votes them No. 15 even if everybody else has them around the top four, they're probably not going to get in," said Bill Connelly, a writer for SB Nation whose statistical rating system called F+ can be found at www.footballoutsiders.com.

On Oct. 21, the committee will release its first weekly rankings, a top 25 that will allow fans to see what the panel is collectively thinking down the stretch of the season.

Hancock has said the weekly rankings were a nod to college football tradition, and transparency. The ranking will give fans a way to assess degree where teams stand in the championship race.

Strength of schedule: The committee has been instructed to place an emphasis on strength of schedule, head-to-head matchups and conference championships.

Strength of schedule has become a particular buzz phrase this offseason, with coaches and conferences already touting the virtues of their lineup.

Dave Bartoo, a data analyst, consultant and founder of www.cfbmatrix.com, said it's misguided to emphasize strength of schedule because calculating it accurately is not possible, no matter how it's done.

According to Bartoo, there are simply not enough data points in college football to make a good sample size to study strength of schedule because teams play so few games and the best teams rarely play each other.

Analyzing the data: The committee will have a virtual bank vault full of data at their fingertips, provided by a company called SportSource Analytics, to help them judge teams.

Bartoo is concerned about information overload and the committee using numbers that have not been properly vetted and take.

"Who is helping with oversight on that?" he said. "Can the playoff committee call me? We think this metric is valuable, can you back test it for that?"

The BCS taught college football fans there is no perfect way of picking the best teams. So far, that seems unlikely to change with the College Football Playoff.

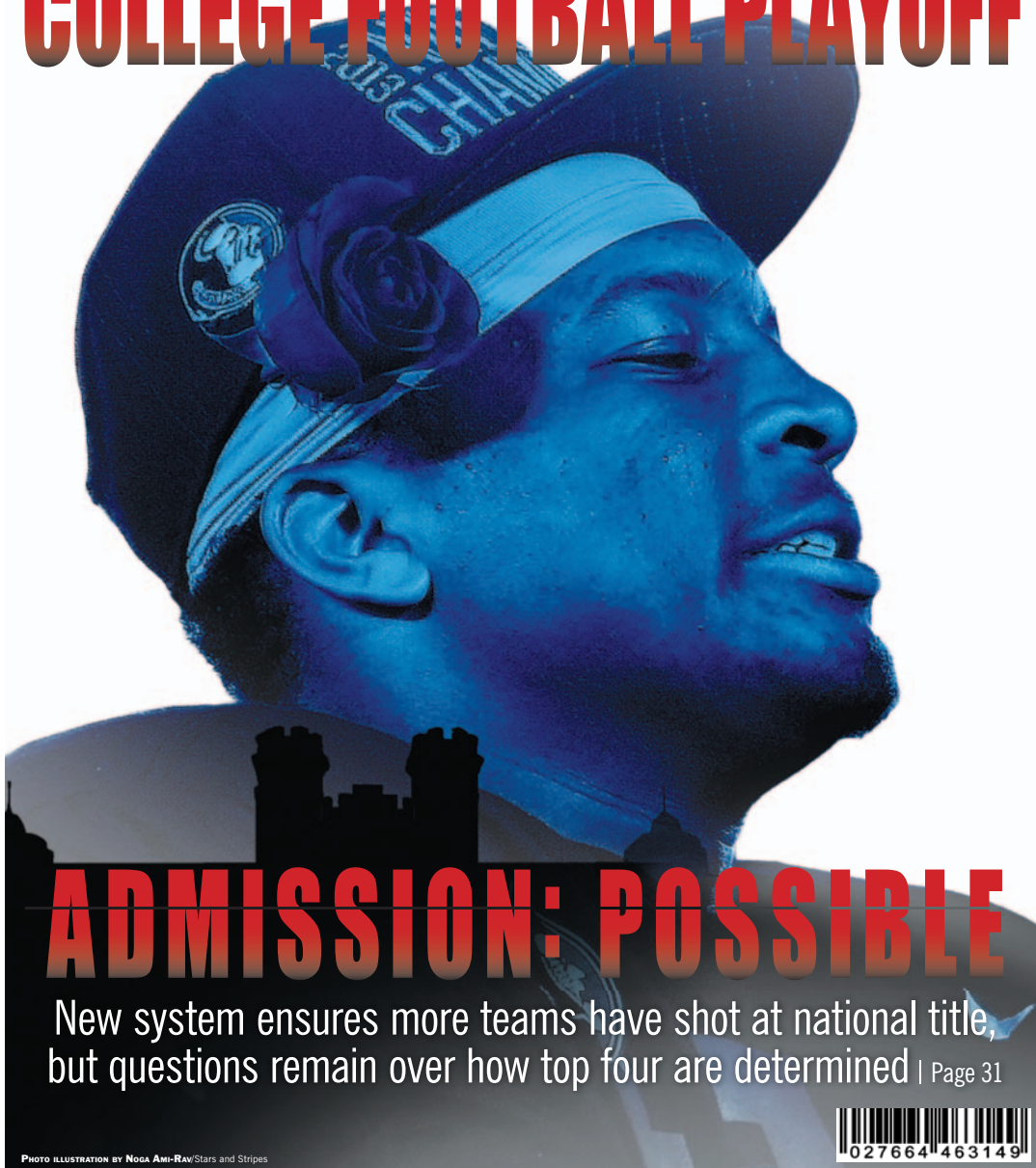
SPORTS

ACC
ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

Are you ready?
ACC, SEC league
previews inside | **Pages 28-29**

SOUTHEASTERN
SEC
CONFERENCE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF



ADMISSION: POSSIBLE

New system ensures more teams have shot at national title,
but questions remain over how top four are determined | **Page 31**

